

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, January 22, 2014

WINTER BLAST



Another Snowstorm Slams The Urban Northeast

A pedestrian walks through a snow storm, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, in south Philadelphia. A storm is sweeping across the Mid-Atlantic and New England. The National Weather Service said the storm could bring 8 to 12 inches of snow to Philadelphia and New York City, and more than a foot in Boston.

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

KATHY MATHESON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A swirling storm with the potential for more than a foot of snow clobbered the mid-Atlantic and the urban Northeast on Tuesday,

grounding thousands of flights, closing government offices in the nation's capital and making a mess of the evening commute.

The storm stretched 1,000 miles between Kentucky and Massachusetts but hit

especially hard along the heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor between Philadelphia and Boston, creating a perilous ride home for millions of motorists. The snow came down harder and faster than

many people expected. Forecasters said some places could get 1 to 2 inches an hour, with wind gusts up to 50 mph. A blizzard warning was posted for parts of Massachusetts, including Cape Cod.

Late in the afternoon, highways in the New York City metropolitan area were jammed, and blowing snow tripled or even quadrupled drive times.

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DAVOS FORUM: CEOS CONFIDENT ON ECONOMY

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Davos Forum:

Survey finds CEOs more confident on global economy

**JOHN HEILPRIN
PAN PYLAS**

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— With the worst of the global financial crisis behind them, CEOs are ready to move on from the fight for survival their businesses have been in for the past few years, a survey found Tuesday.

Accounting and consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, which conducted the survey, said the world's corporate leaders are "gradually switching from survival mode to growth mode." That could lead to more investment, growth and jobs.

For activists, however, the concern is to make sure any gains are distributed more evenly: the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of a super-elite has, they say, fueled global inequality and eroded trust in political institutions and businesses.

PwC's findings came as political and business leaders gathered in the Swiss ski resort of Davos. In its annual report at the start of the World Economic Forum, it found the mindset of CEOs has "less to do with sheltering from economic headwinds and more to do with preparing for the future." Despite that improvement in sentiment, PwC said further gains may prove more difficult. Generating

growth is "getting increasingly complicated" as the global economy finds its footing following years of crisis that have left their mark in the way business is conducted across all sorts

2008 and sent the world skidding to its deepest recession since World War II. "Whenever you have an event like the financial crisis that we have just been through, you always see

vive. They cut costs, resulting in the loss of millions of jobs around the world, and put on hold acquisitions and other potentially risky investments.

But the survey suggests



American actor Matt Damon speaks during the Crystal award ceremony at the eve of the opening of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014. The world's financial and political elite will head this week to the Swiss Alps for 2014's gathering of the World Economic Forum at the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

of sectors.

In an interview with The Associated Press, PwC Chairman Dennis M. Nally said the next big challenge will be the cost and complexity of dealing with a thick-set of new regulations that have sprung up since the financial crisis exploded in

this pendulum move one way, and it is going to take some time to bring it back into balance," Nally said. "It's not as if there's clear sailing for the foreseeable future."

Over the past few years, many businesses battened down the hatches to sur-

that a turnaround — albeit a modest one — is on the cards. Confidence is rising in the advanced economies such as United States, Britain and Germany, though Nally said the global recovery would be held in check by a slowdown in emerging economies. □

EU suspends part of trade talks with US

JUERGEN BAETZ

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union announced Tuesday a partial suspension of the free trade negotiations with the United States to hold a three months-long public consultation due to worries about some of the deal's proposed rules for investment. Non-governmental organizations, lawmakers and some officials have voiced unease over what they say are loopholes in the proposed rules on investment that might expose governments to lawsuits by multinational firms.

"I know some people in Europe have genuine concerns about this ... now I want them to have their say," said EU trade chief Karel De Gucht. The consultation period will start in March with the goal of creating a "more transparent and impartial" system.

A broad EU-US trade deal could provide a boost to growth and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic by eliminating tariffs and regulatory barriers that are hampering business. The trade volume in goods and services between the two economic giants — representing almost half of global output — totaled 800 billion euros (\$1.1 trillion) last year.

The suspension won't derail the overall negotiations that officials hope to conclude by the end of the year, according to the EU Commission, the 28-nation bloc's executive arm. The next high-level meeting in the talks is planned for mid-February in Washington, followed by a new negotiation round in March, both of which will go ahead as planned, said spokesman John Clancy.

The part of the free trade deal that is being contested is a provision that would allow investors or multinational firms to bring arbitration claims against a state when the country is alleged to have broken the pact's investment guidelines. □

Gates: poor countries not doomed to stay poor

**JAKE PEARSON
Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates pitched an optimistic future for the world's poor and sick in their annual letter Tuesday, arguing passionately against three myths they say hurt efforts to bring people out of poverty, save lives and improve living conditions.

In their sixth yearly letter, which in the past has focused exclusively on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's annual activities, the co-chairmen of the world's largest charitable foundation seek to dispel false notions that poor countries

are doomed to stay poor, that foreign aid is wasteful and that saving lives will cause overpopulation.

"All three reflect a dim view of the future, one that says the world isn't improving but staying poor and sick, and getting overcrowded," Bill Gates writes in the 16-page letter. "We're going to make the opposite case, that the world is getting better, and that in two decades it will be better still."

Gates says GDP per capita figures, adjusted for inflation to 2005 dollars, show that many countries such as China, India, Brazil and even Botswana that were

once considered poor now have growing economies. And in Africa, a place the Microsoft co-founder says is all too often dismissed as hopeless, life expectancy has risen since the 1960s despite the HIV epidemic. Also, more children are going to school and fewer people are hungry.

"I am optimistic enough about this that I am willing to make a prediction," he said. "By 2035, there will be almost no poor countries left in the world."

Gates also argues against claims that foreign aid is wasteful because it is too expensive, because it is stolen by corrupt officials

receiving it or because countries who receive it become dependent on it. He says that in Norway, the world's most generous donor of foreign aid, the amount of its budget that goes to foreign aid is only 3 percent. In the U.S., it's less than 1 percent, or about \$30 billion per year, of which \$11 billion goes to vaccines, bed nets and other health causes.

Measles vaccinations, eradicating smallpox, controlling tuberculosis in China and a plan to eliminate polio in Latin America are all public health efforts achieved with aid funding. □

Another snowstorm slams the urban Northeast

Continued from front

"I just want to get to the Bronx," motorist Peter Neuwen lamented. "It's a big place. Why can't I get there?"

In Jersey City, N.J., Stanley Gaines, wearing just a thin jacket and huddling beneath an overhang as snow stung his face, said he had been stuck for more than an hour waiting for a ride home from his appointment at a Veterans Affairs clinic.

"I'm waiting on anything I can get: a taxi, a shuttle, a bus," Gaines said, squinting to read the destination on an approaching bus in near white-out conditions. "I didn't really pay attention to the weather this morning because there was no snow on the ground, and now — this!" In White Plains, N.Y., Anthony Schirrone pulled over his car to scrape snow from the windshield.

"I just did this five minutes ago," he said. "But it's coming down too fast."

The storm was blamed for at least one death in Maryland after a car fishtailed into the path of a tractor-trailer on a snow-covered road about 50 miles northwest of Baltimore. The car's driver was thrown from the vehicle. Forecasters said the storm could bring 10 to 14 inches of snow to

Philadelphia and southern New England and up to a foot in New York City, to be followed by bitter cold as arctic air from Canada streams in. Washington was expecting 4 to 8 inches. This one was a conventional storm that developed off the coast and moved its way up the Eastern Seaboard, pulling in cold air from the arctic. Unlike the epic freeze of two weeks ago, it was not caused by a kink in the polar vortex, the winds that circulate around the North Pole.

Pennsylvania's Transportation Department said it had already blown through more than half of its \$189 million winter weather budget. "Lots of nuisance storms this season have meant that PennDOT

crews have been plowing and treating roads more frequently this winter," spokeswoman Erin Waters-Trasatt said.

About 3,000 flights Tuesday were canceled, with airports from Washington to Boston affected. More than 1,000 flights for Wednesday were called off as well. Amtrak planned to cut back train service in the afternoon.

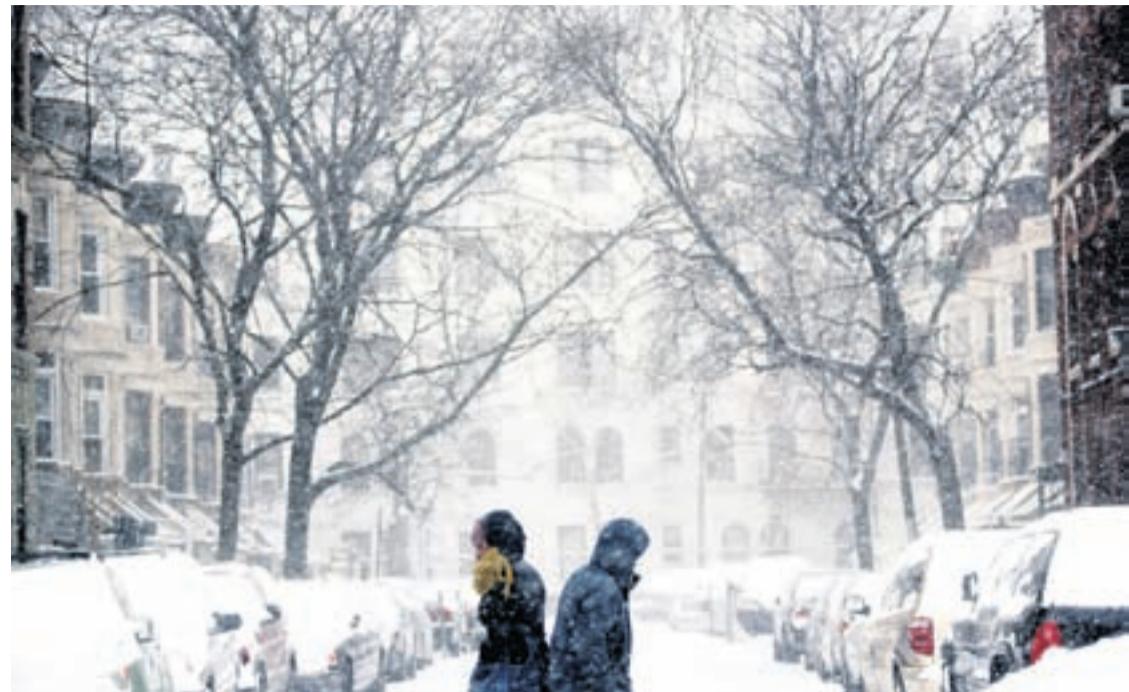
The rush to get home early by many workers was evident in Philadelphia, where many commuter trains were packed.

The storm put a damper on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's inauguration, forcing the cancellation of an evening party on Ellis Island. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick postponed his annual State of the State address, while the Philadelphia Flyers postponed their Tuesday night hockey game.

Schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky stayed closed for an extra day after the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, or sent students home early. Some parents kept their kids home all day, unwilling to put them on slippery roads for a few hours of school. Federal workers in the Washington area were also given the day off.

Standing in Philadelphia's LOVE Park with snow swirling around her, visitor Jenn Byrne of Portland, Ore., said the nasty weather put a crimp in her plans to do a "giant walking tour" of the city. But she vowed to soldier on, taking cabs instead of trudging. She wasn't wearing snow boots. "I'll keep going. Just the means of transportation will change a bit," Byrne said. Others shrugged off the snow as well.

In Herndon, Va., where voters were casting ballots in a special election that was likely to determine control of the state Senate, Earlene Coleman said she felt obligated to make her selection: "It only made sense to come out and do my duty." □



Pedestrians pass near Prospect Park as a storm expected to leave 8 to 14 inches of snow fell upon New York, Jan. 21, 2014. Conditions were expected to worsen all evening through the region and temperatures were forecast to remain below freezing until early next week, as a major winter storm affects work and travel throughout the Northeast.

(Kirsten Luce/The New York Times)

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1 dead in Purdue University shooting; man in custody

KEN KUSMER

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Indiana

(AP) — One person was killed inside a Purdue University classroom Tuesday by a gunman who surrendered to a police officer within minutes of the attack in Midwestern Indiana state, officials said.

Purdue Police Chief John Cox said the man appeared to have targeted the victim, also male, around noon in a basement classroom of the Electrical Engineering Building. He didn't attack anyone else.

"The individual entered the facility and took the actions that he took, and then immediately left the facility without any other interaction that we're aware of," Cox said.

The suspect gave himself up to a West Lafayette police officer outside the



Police evacuate students from the Electrical Engineering building after shots were fired on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Officials at Purdue University say one person has been killed in a shooting at the campus classroom building. Purdue Provost Tim Sands says he didn't immediately know the identity of the person killed or the person's connection to the university. Campus police chief John Cox says the suspect is in custody after surrendering outside the Electrical Engineering Building following the shooting.

(AP Photo/Journal & Courier, John Terhune)

building on the 40,000-student campus, he said.

Cox and Purdue Provost Tim Sands told reporters during an afternoon news conference that they had not yet confirmed the identities of either the suspected gunman or the victim.

Cox said the man arrested wasn't immediately cooperating with investigators.

Purdue officials issued a text alert telling those on the campus about 60 miles (96 kilometers) northwest of Indianapolis to seek shelter shortly after the shooting was reported.

Within two hours, the university said there was no ongoing threat on campus and allowed normal operations to resume in all buildings except the engineering facility.

Purdue officials considered the campus to be secure, said Sands, who in June will become president of Virginia Tech, the university where an April 2007 campus massacre left 33 dead.

"We're encouraging students to continue about their usual business on the rest of the campus except for the Electrical Engineering Building," he said.

Cox, the campus police chief, said authorities responded aggressively after the shooting was reported, with about 20 campus and city police officers at the building within minutes. □

8 pilot whales found dead off Florida coast

LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Eight pilot whales have died in shallow waters off Florida's southwest coast, and six others remain unaccounted for, authorities said Tuesday.

The Coast Guard temporarily closed the area to traffic in the area and ordered boaters to reduce speeds off the shores near Fort Myers as they searched for the other whales. Of the eight

deceased whales, veterinarians euthanized four of them.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service coordinator Blair Mase said necropsies will be performed on the dead whales, four of which died Monday, including two that were euthanized.

In December, more than 50 pilot whales stranded in Everglades National Park.

Several died.

Farther south, officials had been monitoring another two dozen pilot whales off the coast of Collier County, but Mase said those whales were last seen about two miles offshore Monday. She said the local sheriff's aerial team would monitor their path.

Pilot whales live in deep water and usually make their home at least 20 miles (32 kilometers) off the coast

of Florida, so when they swim inland, that's often a sign they are suffering from some kind of toxicity or disease, Mase said.

These whales tend to travel in pods of a couple dozen or more and follow one or two leaders, or navigators. "They have a very tight-knit social structure, which helps them survive normally, but if two swim in to shore, the others will follow," she said. □

Chicago archdiocese hid decades of child sex abuse

RACHEL ZOLL
TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP)—Top leaders at the Archdiocese of Chicago helped hide the sexual abuse of children as they struggled to contain a growing crisis, according to thousands of pages of internal documents that also raise new questions about how Cardinal Francis George handled the allegations even after the church adopted reforms. The documents, released through settlements between attorneys for the archdiocese and victims, describe how priests for decades were moved from parish to parish while the archdiocese hid the clerics' histories from the public, often with the approval of the late Cardinals John Cody and Joseph Bernardin.

Although the abuse documented in the files occurred before George became archbishop in 1997, many victims did not come forward until after he was appointed and after U.S. bishops pledged in 2002

to keep all accused priests out of ministry. George delayed removing the Rev. Joseph R. Bennett,



Attorney Jeff Anderson stands next to the files of and projected photos of Catholic priests credibly accused of sexually abusing minors in the Archdiocese of Chicago, prior to a news conference Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, in Chicago. Newly released documents offer the broadest look yet into how one of its largest and most prominent American dioceses responded to the scandal.

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

despite learning that the priest had been accused of sexually abusing girls and boys decades earlier. Even the board the cardinal appointed to help him evaluate abuse claims advised George that Bennett should be removed.

"I realize this creates a rather awkward situation, but I believe I need to reflect on this matter further,"

George wrote in a Nov. 7, 2005 letter to an archdiocese child protection official. Also against the ad-

ditioned with Bennett. Allegations against Bennett continued well after 2002. He has denied any wrongdoing in his communications with the archdiocese, but was forced out of ministry on Feb. 3, 2006, according to the newly public documents.

George tried to get another priest, Norbert Madius, released early from a Wisconsin prison, where he was serving time after a 1994 conviction for molesting two boys, documents show.

He also has apologized for how he handled allegations against former priest Daniel McCormack, who pleaded guilty in 2007 to abusing five children and whose case prompted an internal investigation of how the archdiocese responds to abuse claims. □

At the Texas border:

2 busted on credit card fraud

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Two Mexican citizens who were arrested at the border used account information stolen during the Target security breach to buy tens of thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise, according to a South Texas police chief.

But a spokesman for the U.S. Secret Service said Tuesday that an investigation is ongoing into the possibility of a link between the Target data breach and the arrests in Texas.

One day earlier, McAllen Police Chief Victor Rodriguez said Mary Carmen Garcia, 27, and Daniel Guardiola Dominguez, 28, both of Monterrey, Mexico, had used cards containing the account information of South Texas residents stolen from Target. Rodriguez said they were used to purchase numerous items at national retailers in the

area including Best Buy, Wal-Mart and Toys R Us. "They're obviously selling the data sets by region," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez did not immediately return calls for comment Tuesday.

In an email, Secret Service spokesman Brian Leary said: "The U.S. Secret Service continues to work closely with affected parties and law enforcement to investigate the Target breach. In regards to the arrests announced yesterday, the Secret Service is working with the U.S. Attorney's Office and McAllen Police Department to determine if there is any connection." Garcia and Guardiola were both being held Tuesday on state fraud charges. It was not immediately known whether they had retained lawyers. Rodriguez said he did not know whether these arrests were the first related to the Target breach. □

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Christie inauguration day clouded by crisis

MICHAEL BARBARO

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Chris Christie, who won a commanding re-election victory in November only to find his administration now beset by crisis and facing both state and federal investigations, was sworn in for a second term as governor of New Jersey on Tuesday.

Despite his mounting political problems, Christie struck a decidedly optimistic note in his inaugural address, saying that New Jersey could be a model for the nation, where doing what is right trumps doing what is politically expedient.

"We will fight to continue to change government so that we value our differences and honor the strength of our diversity," Christie said.

"We cannot fall victim to the attitude of Washington, D.C. The attitude that says I am always right and you are always wrong," he said. "The attitude that puts everyone into a box they are not permitted to leave. The attitude that puts political wins ahead of policy agreements. The belief that compromise is a dirty word."

But even as he spoke those words, his administration was facing allegations that it used the power of the governor's office to punish enemies, even going as

far as withholding money meant for Hurricane Sandy relief for political aims. Christie's office has forcefully denied those allegations, but with the inauguration taking place amid

"This past November, New Jerseyans had the chance to decide if the bonds we have formed were strong enough to endure the heat of today's political campaigns. Would our

he was forced to cancel a party that was scheduled to take place on Tuesday night on Ellis Island because of a snowstorm. Christie, in his speech, said that perhaps it was appro-



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, center, stands for the national anthem with his wife, Mary Pat Foster, and son Andrew at the Trenton War Memorial in Trenton, N.J., Jan 21, 2014. Amid a flurry of subpoenas, investigations and allegations, Christie, inaugurated into his second term on Tuesday, was determined to put a celebratory face on an administration in crisis.

(Damon Winter/The New York Times)

the swirling scandal over power, traffic and the truth, the normally staid and predictable ritual became a closely watched, carefully parsed and fraught political performance Tuesday. Christie shifted the focus to his plans for governance, offering a message of inclusivity, good government and bipartisanship that won him a sizable victory just 77 days ago.

elections confirm that the change we said had arrived on this stage four years ago was truly beneficial for all of our citizens?" he asked.

They answered with a resounding yes, he said. "And it wasn't just some of our people who affirmed this course," he said. "It was the largest and loudest voice of affirmation that the people of our state have given to any direction in three decades." Without the scandals surrounding his administration, the message would likely have been seen as an attempt to demonstrate his broad appeal, not defined by ideology alone.

"Suburbanites and city dwellers," Christie said. "African-Americans and Latinos. Women and men. Doctors and teachers. Factory workers and tradesmen. Republicans and Democrats and Independents. Together, they have demanded that we stay the course they have helped set."

Even as Christie seemed determined that the day have a celebratory feeling,

priate that he was sworn in during a storm given just how much both his administration and the state have been affected by the forces of nature.

He thanked "the hardy souls" who were able to make it to the ceremony, which came several hours after Christie attended a church service in Newark at the same church he attended as a child.

The Rev. Joe A. Carter, calling the governor "my friend," spoke about the experience of shooting an advertisement in support of Christie last year. His sermon emphasized strength and fortitude during times of "darkness."

"Everyone has to deal with dark times," Carter said. "All of us at one time or another have to deal with times of testing and seasons of frustration."

But, he said, there can be salvation in the darkness. "God works best in the nighttime," he said. "God will show in your midnight situation."

Christie took the oath of office at a war memorial in Trenton. □

Former Virginia Gov. McDonnell, wife are indicted

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife were indicted Tuesday on corruption charges after a monthslong federal investigation into gifts the Republican received from a political donor.

The 14-count indictment against McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, includes one count of conspiracy to commit honest-services wire fraud; three counts of honest-services wire fraud; one count of conspiracy to obtain property under color of official right; six counts of obtaining property under color of official right; and one count of making false statements to a federal credit union.

Bob McDonnell is also charged with an additional count of making a false statement to a financial institution, and Maureen McDonnell is charged with one count of obstruction of an official proceeding.

"Today's charges represent the Justice Department's continued commitment to rooting out public corruption at all levels of government," Acting Assistant Attorney General Raman said in a news release. "Ensuring that elected officials uphold the public's trust is one of our most critical responsibilities."

McDonnell left office earlier this month after four years in the governor's office. Virginia law limits governors to a single term.

A federal investigation overshadowed the final months in office for the once-rising star of the Republican Party, with authorities looking into gifts he and his family received from a political donor.

In July, McDonnell apologized and said he had returned more than \$120,000 in loans and other gifts from Johnnie Williams, the CEO of pharmaceutical company Star Scientific. He insisted that he had done nothing illegal on behalf of Star Scientific but said he'd do "things differently today than choices I made a couple of years ago." □

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US Financial Front:

Wedding insurance expands as US nuptials get pricier

MICHAEL MELIA

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Connecticut

(AP) — Worried about the groom getting cold feet? There's an insurance policy for that.

With the cost of the average American wedding reaching about \$26,000, insurers have been selling a growing number of policies to protect against losses from extreme weather, illness and, in one firm's case, even a sudden change of heart.

Cheryl Winter spent \$500 for Hartford-based Travelers Cos. Inc. to cover her daughter's \$50,000 destination wedding last October in New Orleans, where her biggest concern was a potential hurricane. The weather cooperated, but the limousine never showed up. Her daughter took a taxi cab to the church, and they used the insurance policy to claim the deposit money they couldn't get back from the limo driver.

"No one wants to be walking in the French Quarter in a long gown and high heels," said Winter, who lives in the Houston area. The insurance is offered by a small number of U.S. companies. Insurers declined to provide data on the number of customers beyond saying they are growing steadily. It can cover losses from issues ranging from bankrupt wedding halls to cancelations forced by unexpected military deployments. Travelers says

issues with vendors account for about a quarter of the claims, with most of those related to issues with photographers or videographers.

For Travelers, an insurance giant with annual revenue of \$26 billion, the policies will not make or break the bottom line. But the wedding insurance it began

selling in 2007 is also a way to connect with a couple who might later think of the company for home insurance and other life milestones.

"It could be the beginning of a relationship with a young couple," said Ed Charlebois, a Travelers vice president for personal insurance.

Wedsafe, backed by Aon, also offers wedding insurance, which differs little from the specialty insurance that firms may offer for other kinds of events and celebrations.

For parents concerned about a relationship souring before the exchange of vows, Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. offers change of heart insurance. It's been available since 2007, but the program administrator said the fraud rate soared in the early years as policies were bought for couples who were known to be fighting. That coverage now applies only if the bride or groom calls off the wedding more than nine months beforehand.

"Coverage does not exist once you hit the altar," said administrator Rob Nuccio of R.V. Nuccio & Associates. □



This photo shows Shannon and Justin Peach, riding in a carriage after their wedding in New Orleans. Shannon's mom, Cheryl Winter, spent \$500 for Hartford-based Travelers Insurance to cover her daughter's destination wedding, where her biggest concern was a potential hurricane. The weather cooperated, but after the limousine failed to show they used the insurance policy to claim the deposit money they could not get back from the limo driver. (AP Photo/Julia Bailey)

IMF raises outlook for global and US economies

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund is slightly more optimistic about the global and U.S. economies this year than it was three months ago.

In an updated outlook released Tuesday, the global lending organization forecasts that the world econ-

omy will grow 3.7 percent in 2014 and that the U.S. economy will grow 2.8 percent. The global forecast is 0.1 percentage point higher and the U.S. forecast 0.2 point higher than the IMF's October forecast.

After a sluggish start, global economic growth picked up in the second half of 2013. As a result, growth amounted to 3 percent last

year. The IMF expects it will be even stronger growth this year. "The recovery is indeed strengthening, but as we have said many times in the past, much work remains to be done," IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard said Tuesday during a conference call. The IMF forecasts that the U.S. economy grew 1.9 percent last year. And its

2.8 percent forecast for this year would match U.S. growth in 2012. Part of the anticipated improvement is based on expectations for less drag from higher U.S. taxes and across-the-board spending cuts.

By 2015, the IMF forecast the U.S. economy will grow 3 percent, or 0.4 percentage point lower than its October forecast. □

US offers Russia high-tech aid to thwart terror at Sochi Olympics

THOM SHANKER

© 2014 New York Times

BRUSSELS - The United States and Russia have opened discussions about using sophisticated U.S. electronic equipment, developed by the Pentagon to counter

In discussing the Pentagon's technology to counter improvised explosives, Dempsey noted that this was "something that we've become extraordinarily familiar with." Home-made bombs planted by

the U.S. and Russian military chiefs sought to advance an agenda of exchanges and continued cooperation on counterterrorism and anti-piracy operations even as diplomatic relations between Washington



U.S. Congressman, Rep. Michael McCaul, Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, stands on a balcony of his hotel which overlooks the Olympic Park, in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014. Michael McCaul who was in Sochi on Tuesday to assess the situation said he was impressed by the work of Russian security forces but troubled that potential suicide bombers had gotten into the city despite all of the extraordinary security measures.

(AP Photo/Nataliya Vasilyeva)

improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan and Iraq, in a new effort to help secure the Winter Olympics in Sochi next month.

The potential for a technological exchange was part of an extensive discussion here Tuesday when Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held his first face-to-face meeting with his Russian counterpart, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, chief of the general staff.

The Defense Department would be willing to provide equipment designed to detect and disrupt cell-phone or radio signals used by militants to detonate improvised explosives from a distance,

Dempsey said. But he cautioned that technical experts from both nations first needed to make sure that the U.S. systems could be integrated into the communications networks and security systems being set in place by Russia.

militants have been the leading cause of deaths and injuries to U.S. service members in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But especially during the early implementation of the technology, the U.S. military found it had created a muddle of electronic signals in which competing and overlapping systems canceled out the effectiveness of other systems in use at the same time and in the same area. "If you're not careful, you can actually degrade capability, not enhance it," Dempsey said.

The discussion between Dempsey and Gerasimov came one day after Pentagon officials disclosed that the U.S. European Command was drawing up plans to have two Navy warships in the Black Sea at the time of the Sochi games,

should they be needed in case of emergency. The games begin Feb. 7. During their meetings here,

and Moscow swing between caustic disagreement and cautious cooperation.

Both the U.S. and Russian generals share a history of having commanded large tank and armored units - and both stressed the importance of improving communication between their armed forces.

"I think we have an opportunity to advance the relationship on areas of common interest," Dempsey said.

He noted in particular that Moscow remains a vital partner for supply lines for the NATO mission in Afghanistan, agreeing to allow the movement of nonlethal material to and from the war zone through Russian territory along a route called the Northern Distribution Network; that rail and road network is becoming increasingly important as protests in Pakistan choke efforts to use the more convenient supply line there. □

AP NewsBreak:

France to up Africa military presence

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France will broaden its military presence in Africa's turbulent Sahel region with specialized new outposts to better fight the terror threat from extremist groups such as al-Qaida, the defense minister said Tuesday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Jean-Yves Le Drian said France is moving toward a regional counterterrorism approach in former French colonies such as Chad, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali. In a quick air and land campaign, French soldiers largely ousted al-Qaida-linked militants from northern Mali last year. The minister expects to detail the initiative to U.S. officials, including Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and national security adviser Susan Rice, during a trip to Washington this week. France has worked closely with U.S. forces to try to fight extremism in Africa.

The Obama administration backed France's intervention in Mali, holding it up as an example of situations where America's allies can take lead roles in helping less developed countries fight against al-Qaida and other extremists without the need for the U.S. to put boots on the ground.

The counterterrorism plan was presented in detail to President Francois Hollande late last month, and hasn't been publicly announced yet. It will involve creating specialized posts such as for logistics, intelligence-gathering and fighter planes, Le Drian said.

"We are reorganizing our deployment in Africa to be more reactive about potential crises," he said over croissants in a ministry dining room, adorned with a colorful tapestry titled "The Tree of Joy" on the wall. "We will have the same number of soldiers — 3,000 in the Sahel region — but they will be organized differently."

"We are going to reinforce Abidjan as an entry point, a logistical support post," he said of Ivory Coast's commercial capital. "And then we'll boost the intervention capacity on each of the different sites."

Under the plan, Chad's capital, N'Djamena, will be a hub of French air power in the region and a base for Rafale and Mirage fighters. A site in Niamey, Niger's capital, will be equipped with unmanned aircraft such as France's Harfang and — as of its first official flight on Monday — a U.S.-made Reaper surveillance drone that Le Drian helped authorize France to buy.

The new approach follows strategic recommendations laid out in the last review of the nation's security and defense operations that put a new focus on Africa.

Under President Francois Hollande, a longtime friend and Socialist party ally of Le Drian, France has flexed its military muscle like rarely before over the last year. Le Drian has overseen what began as near-solo French efforts in Mali and Central African Republic, where some 1,600 French and 4,600 African troops have been deployed since last month to help stem bloodshed between Christians and Muslims.

The U.S. has backed French-led efforts in Central African Republic. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Tuesday the U.S. is continuing to provide logistical support such as airlifting for French and African troops heading into the country.

A year ago, French troops swooped into vast northern Mali to halt an advance of al-Qaida-linked militants seen as threatening its weak central government, and French forces have been maintaining a presence since then to help Mali return to stability. □



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Brutality of Syria war casts doubt on peace talks

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's conflict was sparked by an act of brutality—the detention and torture of schoolchildren on Wednesday, given the

It will be hard enough to find a political solution to Syria's crisis at an international peace conference convening in Switzerland on Wednesday, given the

such a traumatic rupture of the very glue that holds it together is not easy." In the latest sign of the brutality, three prominent international war-crimes



Anti-Syrian government protesters flash victory signs during a protest in the southern city of Daraa, Syria. It was sparked by an act of brutality, the detention and torture of schoolchildren who spray-painted anti-government graffiti in a southern city. In the three years since, the brutality of Syria's civil war has seemed to reach new levels every day.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

dren who spray-painted anti-government graffiti in a southern city. In the three years since, the conflict has evolved into one of the most savage civil wars in decades.

The atrocities have been relentless. Protesters gunned down in the streets. An opposition singer whose vocal cords were carved out. Beheadings and mass sectarian killings. Barrels full of explosives dropped from warplanes onto bakeries and homes.

vast differences between the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad and the opposition. But in a nation drowning in blood, reconciliation and justice over the atrocities seem even more distant.

"The ethical and moral fabric of this society has been stretched to beyond breaking point," said Amr al-Azm, a U.S.-based Syrian opposition figure and professor at Shawnee State University in Ohio. "For a country to recover from

experts said they had received a huge cache of photographs documenting the killing of some 11,000 detainees by Syrian

authorities. David Crane, one of the three experts, told The Associated Press that the cache provides strong evidence for charging Assad and others for crimes against humanity — "but what happens next will be a political and diplomatic decision."

In the 55,000 digital images, smuggled out by an alleged defector from Syria's military police, the victims' bodies showed signs of torture, including ligature marks around the neck and marks of beatings, while others show extreme emaciation suggestive of starvation. The report — which was commissioned by the Qatar government, one of the countries most deeply involved in the Syrian conflict and a major backer of the opposition — could not be independently confirmed.

"It's chilling; it's direct evidence to show systematic killing of civilians," said Crane, former chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said Tuesday that the United States has focused too strongly on bringing the warring parties into peace talks at the expense of putting "real pressure" on the Assad government to end atrocities and hold to account those responsible. The group also accused Russia and China of shielding their ally Syria from concrete action at the United Nations.

"The mass atrocities being committed in Syria should be a parallel focus of the peace process," Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, told reporters Tuesday in Berlin. For Syria watchers, the descent into the abyss was not inevitable, but the result of conscious decisions by a multitude of players.

"From day one, there was a level of violence used initially by the government in its suppression that was unprecedented," said Nadim Houry, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division. □

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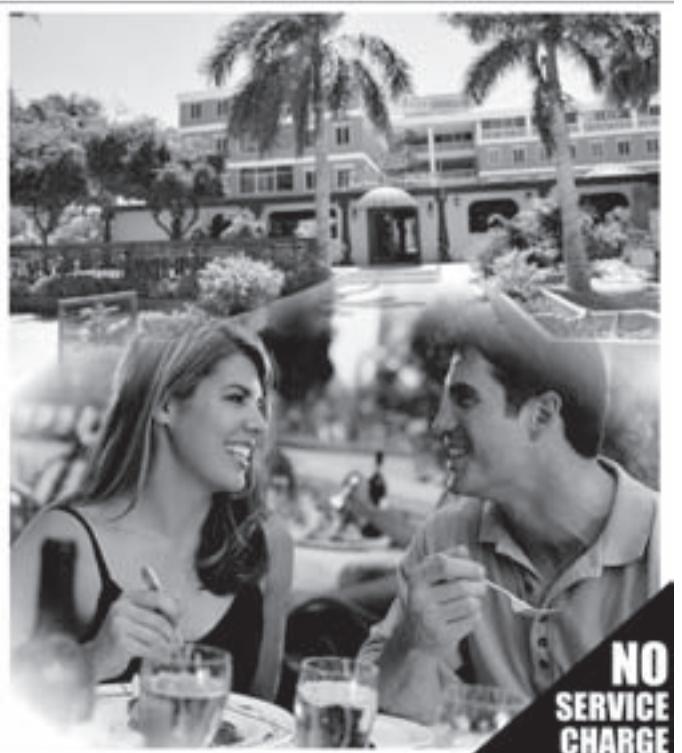
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Hong Kong police question Indonesia maid abuse victim

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Hong Kong police interviewed and took DNA samples on Tuesday from an Indonesian maid allegedly tortured by her Hong Kong employer, seeking evidence in a case that has refocused attention on the vulnerabilities of foreign domestic staff working in Asia and the Middle East. Indonesia President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono made his first public statement on the alleged abuse, which has triggered protests and much media attention in Hong Kong but not as much in Indonesia. Cases of maid abuse are common, and the government has been responding to nationwide floods and an erupting volcano.

"I am angry at the perpetrators of this act and want justice to be done, and I think Hong Kong knows this," Yudhoyono said in a telephone call to the fa-

ther of the victim, Erwiana Sulistyaningsih.

Reporters were allowed in the room while the telephone call was made.

The case came to light last week after photos circulated among Indonesians in Hong Kong of Sulistyaningsih's injuries, showing her face, hands and legs covered with scabs and lacerations, and blackened skin around her feet. On Monday, Hong Kong police arrested a 44-year-old woman identified as Law Wan Tung in connection with the alleged brutality. A day earlier, thousands of maids and their supporters protested in Hong Kong over the case. The arrested woman was brought back to her apartment Tuesday for further investigation.

Four Hong Kong police officers questioned and examined Sulistyaningsih in a hospital on Indonesia's Java island where she is re-



In this photo released by Indonesian National Police, Erwiana Sulistyaningsih, left, an Indonesian maid who was allegedly tortured by her employer in Hong Kong, is interviewed by Hong Kong police investigators at a hospital where she is treated in Sragen, Central Java, Indonesia, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014. Hong Kong police officers arrived at the hospital Tuesday to interview Sulistyaningsih as Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono expressed his concern and anger over the alleged brutality.

(AP Photo/Indonesian National Police)

covering from her injuries. "Her physical condition was good for the interview," said senior inspector Eric Chung Chi-ming. "All the information we got from here will be used for our further action."

There have been dozens of cases of Indonesian domestic workers being treated badly, sometimes killed, while working in Hong Kong, Malaysia and parts of the Middle East. The maids often speak little English and

are beholden to the labor agencies which arrange their trips. They often live with the families and are dependent on them for food and medical care, making them vulnerable to possible exploitation. □

China seized 60k piracy suspects last year

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese police seized almost 60,000 suspects involved in intellectual property infringement cases with a total estimated value of 173 billion yuan (\$28 billion) in 2013, state media reported Tuesday. More than 90 million tons of counterfeit and substandard goods were confiscated last year, and

1,260 criminal networks smashed, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Ministry of Public Security official Gao Feng. Gao also said that during a campaign against the sale of fake drugs online, police seized a record 300 million pills worth 2.2 billion yuan (\$360 million). China's rampant piracy

and widespread production of bogus goods is a major irritant in its relations with trading partners.

Gao said that Chinese police had cooperated with Interpol, the World Customs Organization and law enforcement authorities from countries including the United States, Britain and France. □



A government worker levels piles of pirated books, CD and DVD disks before destroying them in a campaign to crack down piracy in Taiyuan, north China's Shanxi province. Chinese state media say police seized almost 60,000 suspects involved in intellectual property infringement cases with a total estimated value of 173 billion yuan (\$28 billion) in 2013.

(AP Photo)

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CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Guyana beauty queen is facing murder charge

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A former beauty queen from Guyana who is charged with murdering her husband in 2007 has turned herself in to police after disappearing several years ago.

Authorities say Carolan Lynch met with them on Tuesday and is scheduled to appear in court this week.

She was freed in 2007 after a magistrate found no evidence against her, but prosecutors re-filed charges in 2010. Lynch did not appear in court at that time.

Her husband, Farouk Razack, was found strangled to death at their home in the capital of Georgetown.

At the time, he was director of the South American country's largest currency exchange business. □

Penn's Haitian refugee camp is emptying out

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A country club golf course that became a refuge for tens of thousands of people left homeless in the Haitian capital after a devastating 2010 earthquake is clearing out the remaining residents by this weekend.

Rachel Beach works for actor Sean Penn's aid group, J/P Haitian Relief Organization. She says the several dozen people still in the settlement are expected to leave by Friday. □

Venezuela's president blames soap operas for crime

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Nicolas Maduro has a new villain as he campaigns to bring down Venezuela's spiraling crime: TV soap operas. He accuses them of spreading "anti-values" to young people by glamorizing violence, guns and drugs.

The criticism follows attacks last year by Maduro on violent video games and the Hollywood movie "Spider-Man."

On Monday night, his vice president, Jorge Arreaza, met with broadcast and pay TV operators to review the prime-time lineup, warning that they could be in violation of a 2004 law mandating "socially responsible" programming. The two sides will meet in a week with the aim of drafting an agreement on meeting those obligations. It's unclear whether the government will take steps to restrict programming or impose harsher rules on the soap operas known as telenovelas, which are hugely popular across Latin America.

Analysts say arm-twisting is unlikely to reduce Venezuela's high homicide rate, which the United Nations ranks as the fifth worst globally, and they warn that Maduro's campaign could be used as an excuse to further gag media criticism of the government.

"It's a smoke screen to distract attention away from the real causes" of violence and crime, said Roberto Briceno Leon of the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence, which estimates the country's murder rate has quadrupled in 15 years of socialist rule.

Pressure on the government to crack down on crime heated up this month

after former Miss Venezuela Monica Spear and her ex-husband were shot to death by robbers, with their 5-year-old daughter looking on.

The double slaying shocked even Venezuelans hardened by rampant bloodshed and put the government on the defensive on an issue that surveys say is the biggest concern among voters.

In his state of the union

ents and their children is completely accidental," a smiling Vallejo says as her mother gasps for breath in her daughter's arms.

Alberto Barrera Tyszka, the creator of several soap operas, said television only reflects the alarming levels of violence present in society and is already tightly regulated for content deemed unsuitable for minors. He said Maduro should turn his attention to the root causes

punishment for those who commit crimes.

Reflecting high levels of impunity, Venezuela's criminal justice system was ranked the lowest in the world in a recently published study on the rule of law in 97 countries by the Washington-based World Justice Project.

Maduro may see putting the blame on television as an effective political strategy by focusing attention



Flanked by Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez, left, and National Assembly's President Diosdado Cabello, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro greets supporters in Caracas, Venezuela.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

speech last week, Maduro took aim at a popular soap opera, "De todas maneras Rosa," produced by Venevision. He accused the nation's biggest broadcaster of profiting from violence by celebrating the crimes of one of the melodrama's lead characters, Andreina Vallejo, a psychopathic former beauty queen who fatally poisons her own mother to hide the paternity of her son. "Mama, everybody in the world knows that the relationship between par-

of crime instead.

"It's ridiculous to blame the violence on what's seen for one or two hours a night on television" said Barrera Tyszka, who also wrote a biography of Maduro's predecessor and mentor, the late Hugo Chavez.

Briceno Leon, whose group tracks Venezuela's violence, blamed the country's bloodshed on the proliferation of illegal firearms, between 9 million and 15 million by the government's count, as well as the lack of

on the breakdown in societal and family values, a broader problem that can entangle all politicians, regardless of party affiliation, Briceno Leon said.

Barrera Tyszka, the soap opera creator, said the president's campaign also reinforces government control of the airwaves, providing it with another tool to bully channels whose news coverage it frequently attacks as part of a right-wing conspiracy to destabilize the nation. □

Vatican monsignor arrested for money laundering

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A

Vatican monsignor already on trial for allegedly plotting to smuggle 20 million euros (\$26 million) from Switzerland to Italy was arrested Tuesday in a separate case for allegedly using his Vatican bank accounts to launder money. Financial police in the southern Italian city of Salerno said Monsignor Nunzio Scarano, dubbed "Monsignor 500" for his purported favored banknotes, had transferred millions of euros in fictitious donations from offshore companies through his accounts at the Vatican's Institute for Religious Works.

Acting on evidence provided by the Vatican bank, police said they seized 6.5 million euros in real estate and assets in Italian bank accounts Tuesday, including Scarano's luxurious Salerno apartment, filled

with gilt-framed oil paintings, ceramic vases and other fancy antiques.

A local priest was also placed under house arrest and a notary public was suspended for alleged involvement in the money-laundering plot. Police said in all, 52 people were under investigation.

Scarano's lawyer, Silverio Sica, said his client merely took donations from people he thought were acting in good faith to fund a home for the terminally ill. He conceded, however, that Scarano used the money to pay off a mortgage.

"We continue to strongly maintain the good faith of Don Nunzio Scarano and his absolute certainty that the money came from legitimate donations," Sica told The Associated Press. The Salerno investigation was already under way when Scarano was arrested in June in Rome on the



An undated photo of Monsignor Nunzio Scarano in Salerno, Italy. A Vatican monsignor already on trial for allegedly plotting to smuggle 20 million euros (\$26 million) from Switzerland to Italy was ordered arrested in a separate case on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014 for allegedly using his Vatican bank accounts to launder money.

(AP Photo/Francesco Pecoraro)

smuggling accusations.

Police and Sica have said the money involved in both the Swiss smuggling case and the Salerno money-

laundering case originated with one of Italy's most important shipping families, the d'Amicos.

On Tuesday, financial po-

lice said more than 5 million euros had been made available to Scarano by the D'Amicos via offshore companies. □



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French leader to CEOs: Hire more to get tax cut

SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Francois Hollande told top companies that they have to promise to hire and invest more if they want to benefit from a promised cut in payroll taxes.

Companies in France pay the highest payroll taxes in Europe.

A promised 30 billion-euro (\$41 billion) payroll tax cut is the centerpiece of Hollande's new bid to keep the economy from sliding back into recession and to bring down unemployment, which is nearly 11 percent.

In a speech Tuesday to French CEOs, Hollande said companies have to promise to hire a fixed number of workers in exchange. He said it's up to unions and employers to decide how many, but the outcome of their negotiations "must be clear and specific and measurable, therefore verifiable."

"Companies must commit to investing more in France

and moving jobs back" to France from cheaper sites abroad, he said.

Employers and unions will negotiate this spring so that the government can turn the deal, which he calls a "responsibility pact," into law by summer, he said.

Pierre Gattaz, head of France's biggest employers' association Medef, praised the general idea but warned: "If we turn the pact into obligations, additional legal rules, penalties, we completely miss the point."

Jean-Pierre Mailly, head of the hard-left Workers' Force union, criticized a "completely unbalanced deal. You announce tax cuts but what the companies might give in exchange is very unrealistic."

Hollande announced last week the tax cut to reduce the burden on companies and independent workers by 30 billion euros by 2017. He came under immediate criticism from fellow Socialists for being too friendly to big business. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Acqua Condominium Aruba: The Essence of a Lifestyle

PALM BEACH – Acqua Condominium Aruba, a project spearheaded by Acqua Construction, on 325,278 sq. ft. of prime property land on Palm Beach announced recently that construction has been progressing at a satisfactory pace and that the sales gallery as well as the model-suite within the Sabbia Tower, are ready to welcome tours and inquiries, seven days a week.

The developer has also recently incentivized your purchase with the following super deals! Right now, with a deposit of 30%, you will receive 10% discount, and with a deposit of 50% your discount becomes 15%! Additionally enticing, by paying in full you will receive 25% discount!

At Acqua a beautiful two bedroom apartment with two bathrooms starts at \$296,800, with a cash deal on this price starting at \$222,600.

The Sabbia Tower, overlooking Palm Beach boasts



208, 2-bedroom condos, with 2 baths each, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views.

The two condo towers, on the already fully-fenced property, will be complemented by a two-story shopping complex, facing the Palm Beach Plaza Mall,

with commercial space for trendy restaurants and upscale shops.

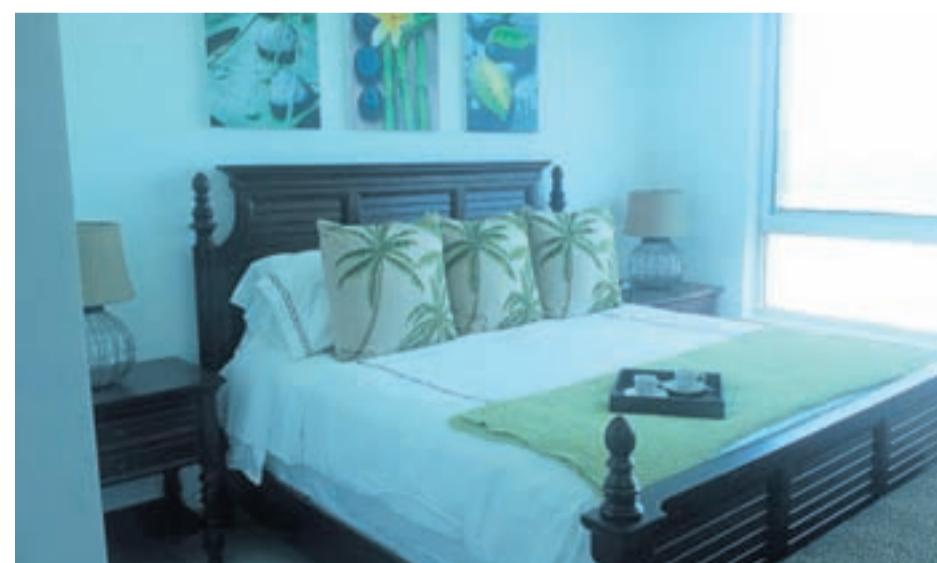
Making the decision on a purchase, and acting on it fast, was recently made even more imperative, in view of the fact that the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment to a building moratorium for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project, on property land, in the island's most-desired location. If the image of Aqua Condominium tugs at your heartstrings, you are invited to visit the sales gallery and the elegant model-suites available for

viewing, fully finished with luxurious touches and high-end amenities.

The sales center is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm; Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 2pm: A gorgeous model unit is available for you to preview!

Meet the sales team who

will guide you through the purchase of the stylish condo of your dreams, allowing you to return to Aruba as often as you wish. You will find the website very helpful with all legal documents, floor plans, furnishings and finishings, posted on line: www.acquaruba.com. □



Focusing on International Culture (Salvador Dalí): Post Aruba presents its first philatelic issue of 2014

ORANJESTAD - On January 17, 2014 Post Aruba issued its first philatelic issue of 2014: International Culture (Salvador Dalí). This issue consists of 6 stamps and 1 First Day Cover which were adapted by the local artist Michiko Takatsu, using images of the Salvador Dalí paintings.

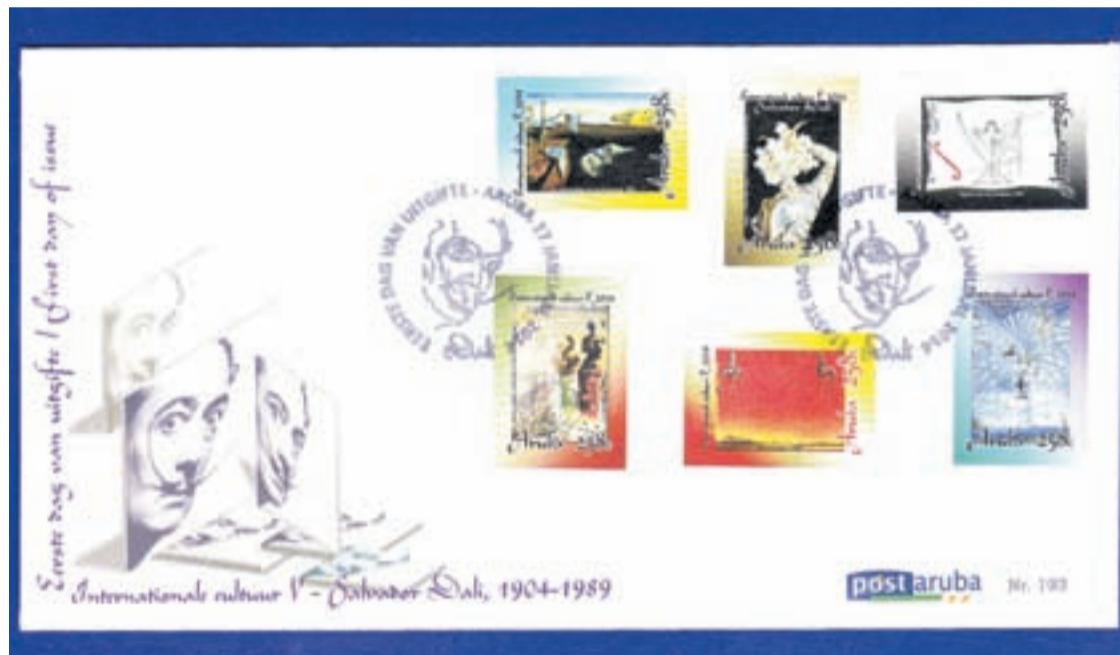
The Spanish artist Salvador Domingo Felipe Jacinto Dalí i Domènec (May 11, 1904 – January 23, 1989),

known as Salvador Dalí, was a groundbreaking icon of the Surrealist movement and one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. His work probed the unconscious world of thoughts, dreams and perception in fanciful and nightmarish images influenced by Freud, Cubism, Futurism and metaphysical art. Extraordinarily imaginative, Dalí also sculpted, and contributed to fashion, photography

and theater. Nearly photographic, Dalí's art has been called the epitome of Surrealism.

Dalí was highly imaginative, and also enjoyed indulging in unusual and grandiose behavior.

His eccentric manner and attention-grabbing public actions sometimes drew more attention than his artwork, to the dismay of those who held his work in high esteem, and to the ir-



itation of his critics.

□ Anyone who wishes to have this issue can obtain it at the Post Aruba offices in Oranjestad, Palm Beach Plaza Mall, San Nicolas,

Santa Cruz, and Harbour Area as of January 17, 2014, until January 16, 2015. International orders can be placed via the e-mail: ipa747@yahoo.com □

**Beauty
On The
Beach**

**Kenna and
Carolina
Armstrong**

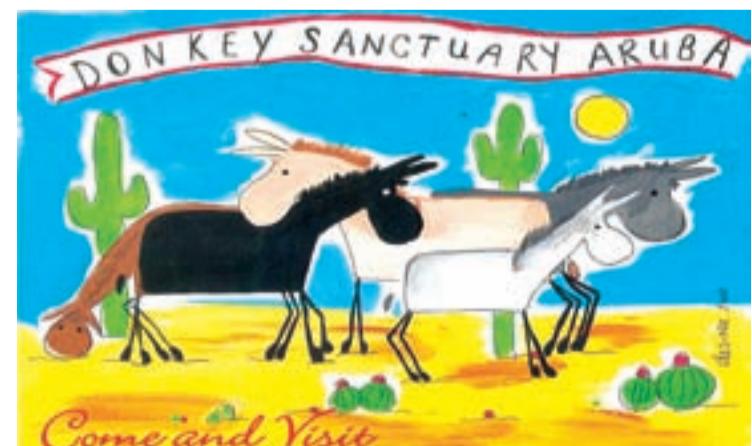
Kenna and Caroline are with their parents on vacation in Aruba, it is their first visit to the island.

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PALM BEACH - The Blue Lobster Restaurant says 'Congratulations!' to the winner of their Facebook initiative "Like Us On Facebook", Madame Graciela Tieleman. She won a gift certificate for a dinner for two at the fabulous Blue Lobster Restaurant!



Shake it, baby! Steel band plays at Tango Restaurant!

PALM BEACH - This 2-year old boy knows how to shake the maracas! He was caught by the photographer as he was helping the steel band keep its driving rhythm during their terrific performance at the Arawak Gardens last Saturday evening. Diners at the Arawak Garden can enjoy

live music every night of the week, while having dinner at Salt & Pepper, Tango Argentine Restaurant, Fishes & More or Casa Tua. The Arawak Garden can be found across from the Occidental Resort on the Hi-Rise strip. And remember: Saturday night is steelband night! □



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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY****NBA Capsules****Millsap has 26, Hawks hold off Heat 121-114****The Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — Paul Millsap scored 26 points as the Atlanta Hawks overcame LeBron James' 30 points to beat the Miami Heat 121-114 Monday.

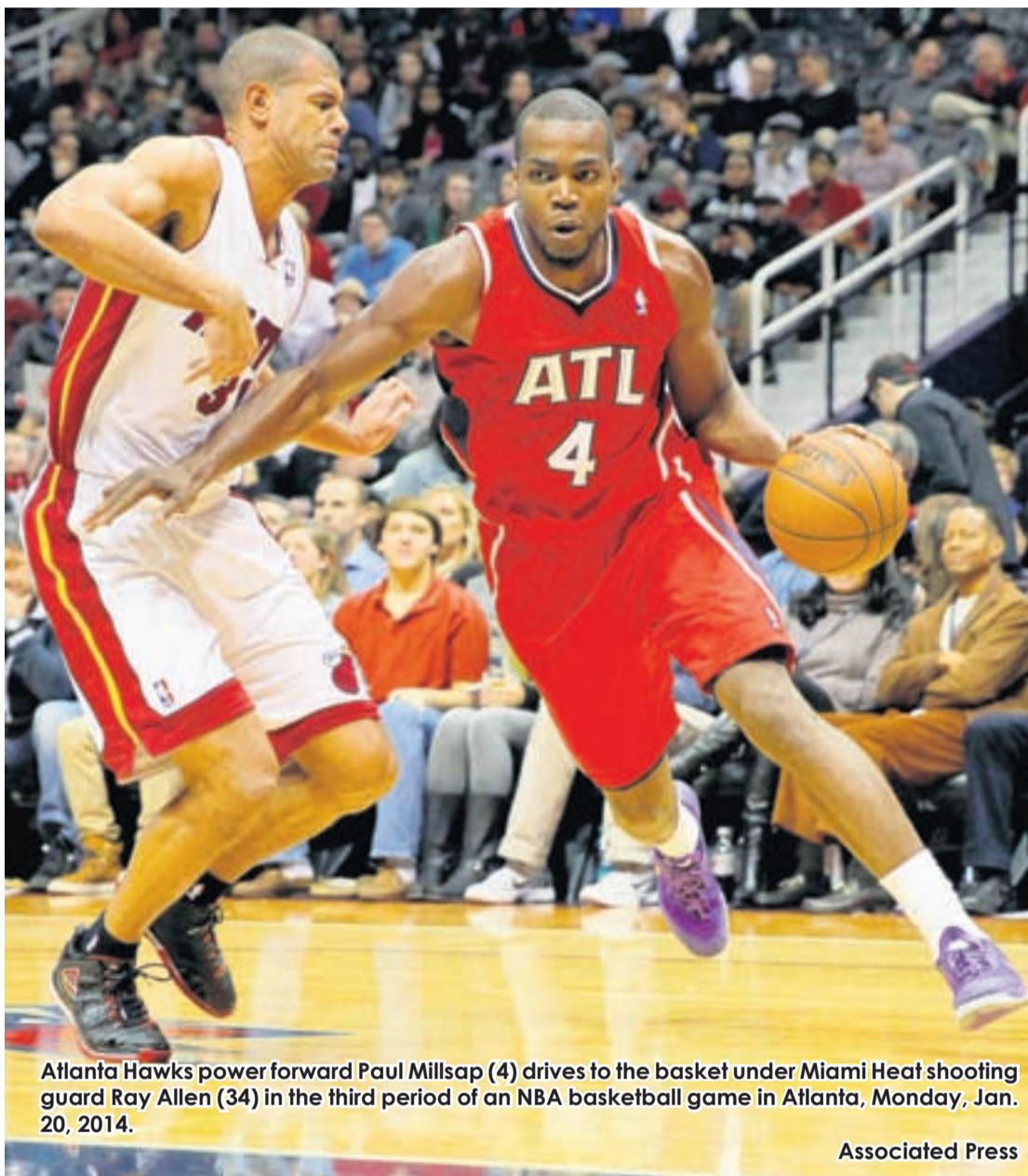
DeMarre Carroll added 19 points and Pero Antic had 17 for the Hawks, who snapped a nine-game losing streak in their series with the Heat.

Chris Bosh had 21 points for Miami, which was without Dwyane Wade for the second straight game.

Atlanta took its first win over Miami since Jan. 2, 2012 and its first home win in the series since Nov. 18, 2009.

PACERS 102, WARRIORS 94
OAKLAND, California (AP) — Paul George scored 23 points, and Roy Hibbert had 14 points and 13 rebounds as the NBA-leading Pacers built a big lead before holding off the Warriors for their fifth straight win.

The Pacers (33-7) went ahead by 20 in third quarter, watched the Warriors whittle the lead to two and then regrouped in the closing minutes to open a five-



Atlanta Hawks power forward Paul Millsap (4) drives to the basket under Miami Heat shooting guard Ray Allen (34) in the third period of an NBA basketball game in Atlanta, Monday, Jan. 20, 2014.

Associated Press

game West Coast trip with a victory.

David West added 17 points and Lance Stephenson finished with 14 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to help the Pacers pull away for good.

Stephen Curry had 24 points and nine assists, and David Lee had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who have lost four of six since their 10-game winning streak.

NETS 103, KNICKS 80

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Johnson scored 25 points and Brooklyn sent the Knicks to a fourth straight loss, evening this season's New York rivalry at a game each.

Making a triumphant return from London and completing a three-game, three-country road trip, the Nets improved to 7-1 in 2014 and avenged last month's blowout loss.

Andray Blatche had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Alan Anderson scored 15 points for the Nets.

Continued on page 21

Dutch brass band may play 'YMCA' at Sochi oval

This is Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010 a file photo of the Dutch brass band Kleintje Pils, or Small Beer, entertains the crowd prior to the start of the men's 1000 meters race at the Richmond Olympic Oval at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Associated Press

MIKE CORDER

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch brass band that always performs at Olympic speed skating ovals is considering playing a popular gay song — "Y.M.C.A." — at the Sochi Winter Olympics to show its support for gay rights.

It remains to be seen how Russian and Olympic authorities would react should the Kleintje Pils band play a song widely considered to be a gay anthem. A ban

on information about "non-traditional sexual relations" signed into law by Russian President Vladimir Putin has provoked widespread international outrage from critics who believe it discriminates against gays.

Band leader Ruud Bakker told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Kleintje Pils could mix the Village People's "Y.M.C.A." in its sing-along repertoire as "a signal."

But he added that the band didn't want to antagonize organizers or turn its

performances into a "political game."

"We will see if we can get one or two songs into the selection, knowing that in the Netherlands it will be seen as a signal we are thinking of them (gays)," Bakker said.

The band, which keeps speed skating crowds rocking during ice resurfacing breaks at Olympic competitions, is best known for its stirring rendition of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" and Queen's "We are the Champions." □

Djokovic's long winning run ends in Australia

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic continued an upsetting trend at the Australian Open. The three-time defending champion joined Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova as unexpected early departures from the season's first major with a quarterfinal loss Tuesday night to Stanislas Wawrinka.

Djokovic came into the match with 28 consecutive wins since losing last year's U.S. Open final to Rafael Nadal, and 25 in a row at Melbourne Park since 2010. But the figure that really mattered was 14 — the number of consecutive matches in which Djokovic had beaten Wawrinka back to 2007, including two five-set wins the last time they met in Grand Slam matches last year at the Australian and U.S. Opens.

Djokovic held off Wawrinka 12-10 in the fifth set in a 5-hour, 2-minute fourth-rounder here last year — the longest Grand Slam match of the season.

All those streaks ended in a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 9-7 win Tuesday by Wawrinka, Roger Federer's sometimes Swiss doubles partner and who is into the semifinals of a Grand Slam for the first time.

"Fourteen is enough," Wawrinka said. "After losing two times against him in Grand Slam in five sets, I'm really happy to take that one."

Federer, who will play Wimbledon champion Andy Murray in a quarterfinal on

Wednesday, tweeted: "So deserving for Stan the man ..."

The match, which included a five-minute rain delay with Wawrinka serving at 5-5 in the deciding set, lasted exactly four hours and featured long rallies that tested the resolve, patience and shot-making ability of both players.

At the end, it was a mis-hit from Wawrinka on a service return that set up match point. Djokovic chased it to the net but his cross-court drop shot was too wide. He then missed a volley on match point.

"Didn't want to let him win that one," Wawrinka said. "Got a little bit lucky in the last one. He missed easy shots. But in general in the fifth set I think I went for it." Djokovic was quick to praise Wawrinka, heading to his media interview obligations just minutes after the match ended.

"He took his opportunities. He deserved his big win today," Djokovic said. "There's nothing I can say. I gave it my best, I gave it my all. It wasn't to be this time. He showed his mental strength and he deserved to win."

After reaching the semifinals at back-to-back majors for the first time, the 28-year-old Wawrinka will be playing for a place in his first Grand Slam final — in 36 attempts dating back to 2005 — when he meets No. 7-seeded Tomas Berdych, who beat third-ranked David Ferrer 6-1, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Eugenie Bouchard is playing in just her fourth major, and already has advanced to the last four in the tournament. The 19-year-old Bouchard became the first Canadian to make the semifinals of the Australian Open — and only the second player from her country to make the semis of any Grand Slam — when she beat Ana Ivanovic 5-7, 7-5, 6-2. It was a big win, considering Ivanovic had knocked Williams out in the

fourth round on Sunday.

Bouchard next plays No. 4-seeded Li Na on Thursday for a chance to reach the final. Li, the 2011 French Open champion and two-time Australian finalist, beat Flavia Pennetta 6-2, 6-2 in the first of the quarterfinals. Despite the relative speed of her Grand Slam progression, Bouchard said she wasn't surprised by her win. "It's something I've been doing since I was five years old and working my whole life for and sacrificing a lot of things for," she said. "I always expect myself to do well. I'm just happy to have gone through this step. I'm not done." □



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland celebrates after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in their quarterfinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014.

Associated Press

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NHL Capsules

Maple Leafs beat Coyotes 4-2 to extend win streak

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Arizona (AP) — Jonathan Bernier stopped 39 shots as the Toronto Maple Leafs had another big scoring night to beat the Phoenix Coyotes 4-2 Monday for their first five-game winning streak in seven years.

Phil Kessel had a goal and an assist to extend his points streak to six games for Toronto, which last won five straight from Jan. 27-Feb. 2007. Jake Gardiner and Nazem Kadri each had a goal and an assist, and Carl Gunnarsson scored his first goal in nearly a year.

The Maple Leafs have 20 goals during their winning streak.

The Coyotes sent a flurry of shots at Bernier after falling behind 3-0 and matched a team record by scoring a power-play goal in eight straight games when Mike Ribeiro scored early in the third period.

Antoine Vermette also scored a short-handed goal for Phoenix, which had numerous near-misses.

SHARKS 3, FLAMES 2
SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Joe Pavelski scored two goals to move into a tie for



the second most in the NHL this season and lift San Jose over Calgary.

Pavelski scored on a deflection in the first period and on the power play in the second to give him five goals in his past two games and 18 in the past 20 to tie Anaheim's Corey Perry with 27 on the season. Washington's Alex Ovechkin has 35.

Tommy Wingels also scored and Antti Niemi made 21 saves for the Sharks, who returned home from a perfect three-game road trip with a win over struggling Calgary to open a pre-Olympic stretch of eight games out of 10 at home. Jiri Hudler and Kevin Westgarth scored for the Flames, who have lost four straight

games and 11 of 13. Karri Ramo made 24 saves.

PANTHERS 5, PENGUINS 1
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Drew Shore scored twice for the first multi-goal game of his career as Florida ended Pittsburgh's club-record 13-game home winning streak. Jonathan Huberdeau, Dmitry Kulikov and Shawn Matthias also scored for the Panthers, who beat Pittsburgh for the second time in three meetings this season.

Scott Clemmensen stopped 35 shots in his first start in three weeks, ending Florida's two-game losing streak.

Matt Niskanen scored the only goal for the Penguins, who lost at home for the first time since Nov. 13. Marc-Andre Fleury made 23 saves, losing for only the fourth time in his past 37 starts at Consol Energy Center.

BLUES 4, RED WINGS 1
DETROIT (AP) — Magnus Paajarvi, Barret Jackman, Kevin Shattenkirk and Jay Bouwmeester scored as St. Louis beat Detroit to snap a two-game skid.

Alex Steen added two assists and Jaroslav Halak made 22 saves for the Blues.

Gustav Nyquist scored for Detroit. Jimmy Howard stopped 22 shots before being replaced by Petr Mrazek midway through the second period because of a lower-body injury. Mrazek made 13 saves.

ISLANDERS 4, FLYERS 3, SO
UNIONDALE, New York, Kyle Okposo scored the game-

leveling goal from a power play late in regulation and then netted the winner in the shootout to lift New York to a rare win over Philadelphia. The Islanders used a dominant third period to erase a 3-1 deficit and force overtime. Brock Nelson made it a one-goal game at 8:16, and Okposo tied it with 2:58 left in regulation on a lunging push with his stick after the puck struck his skate. The goal was confirmed by video replay.

Frans Nielsen and John Tavares also scored in the four-round shootout against Ray Emery, who made 40 saves through overtime.

Anders Nilsson turned aside Vincent Lecavalier and Sean Couturier in the tie-breaker to help the Islanders avoid a four-game, season-series sweep versus the Flyers. Tavares also scored a power-play goal in regulation for the Islanders.

PREDATORS 4, STARS 1

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Roman Josi had a goal and an assist to lead Nashville over Dallas.

Nick Spaling, Shea Weber, and Mike Fisher also scored for Nashville, which has won three of four.

Cody Eakin scored for Dallas, which has lost of nine of 10.

BRUINS 3, KINGS 2

BOSTON (AP) — Brad Marchand continued his recent hot scoring stretch with a pair of goals, lifting Boston over Los Angeles.

Marchand, who also had two in Boston's shootout loss in Chicago on Sunday, has scored six in his past four games. Torey Krug had the other goal for the Bruins, who won at home for the 11th time in 13 games.

Boston's backup goaltender Chad Johnson made 21 saves.

Willie Mitchell and Jeff Carter scored for the Kings and Jonathan Quick stopped 20 shots.

Los Angeles has lost two straight, but collected points in six of eight (4-2-2).

In other NHL games it was N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3, SO; Boston 3, Los Angeles 2; Florida 5, Pittsburgh 1; St. Louis 4, Detroit 1; Nashville 4, Dallas 1; Toronto 4, Phoenix 2; and San Jose 3, Calgary 2. □

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Carroll says Sherman sorry rant overshadowed win

RENTON, Washington (AP)

— Seattle coach Pete Carroll pulled Richard Sherman aside on Monday and made sure his fiery cornerback understood that his rant against San Francisco's Michael Crabtree was overshadowing the Seahawks reaching their second Super Bowl.

Sherman seemed to get Carroll's message.

"He was really clear that the last thing he wanted to do was take something away from our team, what we had accomplished," Carroll said.

Sherman became the focal point of attention — positive and negative — after Seattle beat San Francisco 23-17 on Sunday to win the NFC Championship.

Sherman was already going to be in the spotlight for what he did on San Francisco's final offensive play, twisting his body to deflect a pass intended for Crabtree into the air and allowing time for teammate Mal-

colm Smith to run over and make an interception in the end zone to clinch the Seahawks victory.

The athleticism on the play was worthy of praise. But Sherman's antics from that point drew praise from some for being honest and unfiltered, and criticism from others for being too harsh and combative.

"This is a very emotional kid and that's what drives him," Carroll said. "We did sit down and talk about it because I want him to present himself in his best light. He's an incredible kid. "He has a great sense about things and understanding and sensitivity and awareness and he cares and he's a very thoughtful person so when he puts out those kind of thoughts he has to know what he's saying and understand it, and I think he's very understanding at this point that he caused a stir that took away from the team."

After Sherman's block on

Crabtree, he didn't let the celebration end with his teammates. Sherman ran over to Crabtree and gave him a pat on the backside, then appeared to extend his arm for a handshake.

Instead, Sherman got shoved in the face before picking up his personal foul as his celebration continued. The taunt included a choking gesture in the direction of 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

Asked about the incident afterward on TV, Sherman lit up Twitter with a rant that began: "I'm the best corner in the game. When you try me with a sorry receiver like Crabtree, that's the result you gonna get!"

And Sherman didn't back down later, calling Crabtree "mediocre." He said his issues with Crabtree went back to an incident during the offseason.

Carroll said he viewed the situation as a father talking to his son and wanted Sherman to realize some more



Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll celebrates with Russell Wilson after the NFL football NFC Championship game against the San Francisco 49ers Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014, in Seattle. The Seahawks won 23-17 to advance to Super Bowl XLVIII.

Associated Press

thought should have gone into what he was saying. "There's some stuff in there I think you should think about and did you really want it to come out the way it did and talk our

way through that," Carroll said. "And he didn't. He didn't feel right about that. "There were a lot of great things that happened last night and we're talking about some other stuff." □

NBA Capsules

Continued from page 18

Carmelo Anthony had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who beat the Nets 113-83 in Brooklyn but were hardly ever in this one. They lost on Martin Luther King Jr. Day for the fourth straight time, the last two both at home to the Nets.

BULLS 102, LAKERS 100, OT
CHICAGO (AP) — Taj Gibson made a layup at the buzzer in overtime to lift Chicago to victory over Los Angeles.

With nine-tenths of a second left, Mike Dunleavy inbounded from underneath the basket and found Gibson cutting down the middle.

The athletic forward then

muscled toward the hoop for the winning basket, which was confirmed in a video review by the officials.

Joakim Noah had 17 points and 21 rebounds for Chicago (20-20), which has won eight of 10 to get back to .500 for the first time since Nov. 27. D.J. Augustin had a season-high 27 points, and Jimmy Butler finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Nick Young had 31 points for the Lakers, including a tying baseline jumper with 6 seconds left in overtime.

ROCKETS 126, TRAIL BLAZERS 113

HOUSTON (AP) — Chandler Parsons scored a season-high 31 points and Dwight Howard added 24 points to help Houston snap Port-

land's five-game winning streak.

The Rockets won their second straight, building a big lead early and answering every time Portland made a run.

James Harden added 22 points and had five assists and Patrick Beverley returned from a broken hand to score 17 points. Parsons added 10 rebounds and seven assists while finishing one point shy of his career-high.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 20 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won seven of their last 11 games. Damian Lillard added 24 points and Wesley Matthews had 18.

CLIPPERS 112, PISTONS 103
AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — DeAndre Jordan

had 16 points and 21 rebounds as Los Angeles breezed past Detroit.

Jordan made his first seven shots — almost all on dunks. Blake Griffin added 25 points and Jamal Crawford scored 26 for the Clippers, who are 6-2 since losing star point guard Chris Paul to a shoulder injury.

J.J. Redick added 20 points for Los Angeles, including two four-point plays when the Pistons fouled him beyond the arc.

Rodney Stuckey scored 29 points for Detroit and Josh Smith added 24, but the Pistons got almost nothing from their starting backcourt. Brandon Jennings went scoreless and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored only six points.

MAVERICKS 102, CAVA-

LIERS 97

CLEVELAND (AP) — Monta Ellis scored 22 points and Shawn Marion added 18 as Dallas held off Cleveland's late rally.

Cleveland roared back from a 24-point deficit in the first half and trailed by three with 2.8 seconds remaining, but the Cavaliers were called for a five-second violation when Jarrett Jack failed to get the ball inbounds.

Ellis put the game away with two free throws with 1.1 seconds left.

Kyrie Irving led Cleveland with 26 points. Luol Deng, acquired from Chicago on Jan. 7, scored 20 points in his first home game with the Cavaliers while Anderson Varejao had 18 points with 21 rebounds. □

Eating Your Pots and Pans

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Certain metals are essential for human health like iron, zinc, copper, manganese, chromium, molybdenum, selenium, calcium and sodium. Of course, we need these only in trace, or very small amounts. These metals are found naturally in the earth where plants and animals absorb them and then pass them to us as food.

Other metals known as heavy or toxic metals are elements that cannot be metabolized by the body and include: mercury, nickel, lead, arsenic, cadmium, aluminum, platinum, and copper (the metallic form found in copper pipes, versus the ionic form required by the body). Exposure to heavy metals has been linked with developmental retardation, various cancers, kidney damage, and even death in cases of very high of exposure.

The fact is that we are all being exposed to and absorbing harmful substances to some degree every day. Aluminum powder is found in kitchen pots, toothpaste and underarm deodorant and processed foods. Mercury from amalgam (silver) fillings breaks down and leaks a toxic gas into our brains. And, these are just a few examples. We may not be able to control all the toxic metals we are exposed to, but we can control some.

Most people are shocked to find out that metal and chemicals from your kitchen pots and pans can leach into your food, especially under high cooking temperatures. Even a small amount of metal or chemical can af-

flect the taste of your food, not to mention, your health. Want a check for yourself? Put a half a glass of clean water into one of your pots and scrub the bottom with a brand new plastic scouring pad. Scrub for thirty seconds, and then pour the water into the glass. What do you see? Would you drink that water? If the water is cloudy or if the water tastes metallic, you should consider changing your cookware. Acidic and alkaline foods will increase the leaching of metals from your pots into your food. Generally, vinegar and fruits are the most acidic foods and include lemon juice, apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, grapefruit, peaches, pears, pineapple, plums, and raspberries. The more acidic vegetables include: pimentos, tomatoes, or anything processed with vinegar or acid liquid, such as artichokes or beets from a jar or can.

Alkaline or basic foods include eggs, garlic, onion, potatoes, avocados, bananas, spinach, broccoli, carrots, peas, and my favorite, unsweetened chocolate. The body has a much higher tolerance for acid foods than basic foods. That is because acidic foods tend to push the body to a healthier more alkaline position. Inexpensive and excellent at transferring heat quickly to food, aluminum has been used for kitchenware for a long time. Aluminum is fairly soft and will release more molecules into the food than harder metals used in other cookware. Alkaline foods will increase the amount of aluminum

that leaches into the food. Aluminum cookware is definitely linked to an increasing chance of early onset Alzheimer's disease. Medical research has shown that approximately 20% of the daily intake of aluminum has been proven to come from cooking utensils (pans, pots, kettles, and trays) made of aluminum.

In 1961, "The Happy Pan", the first US-made Teflon coated frying pan was introduced and became popular because Teflon is used as a non-stick coating. However, while Teflon is stable and nontoxic, it begins to deteriorate after the temperature of cookware reaches about 260 °C; 500 °F, and decomposes above 350 °C; 662 °F. Meat is usually fried between 400 and 450 °F (204 and 232 °C), and most oils will start to smoke, meaning they are turning rancid before a temperature of 500 °F, 260 °C is reached. Empty cookware can easily exceed this temperature upon heating. Overheating of Teflon generates highly toxic fumes and poses a serious health hazard to the human respiratory tract. Heated to its smoking point Teflon fumes are ten times as toxic as phosgene gas, a chemical weapon used in both World Wars.

In May, 2003, the environmental research and advocacy organization, Environmental Working Group, filed a brief with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission petitioning for a rule requiring that cookware and heated appliances bearing non-stick coatings carry a label warning of health haz-

ards to people and to birds. Cast iron cookware can leach dietary iron into food which is actually a good thing. People with anemia may benefit from the added iron in the food. However, Cast iron is very heavy, rusts if not handled correctly and not practical for all types of cooking.

Stainless steel is the better choice for cookware, but even good stainless, after it has been used and scoured with steel wool pad, or dinged and pitted through years of use, leaches some metals into your food. Stainless steel is actually a mixture of several metals, including chromium, molybdenum and nickel, all of which can trickle into foods. Chromium and molybdenum are needed by the body in very small amounts, but nickel, is a toxic metal known as a carcinogen or cancer causing. We test patients for toxins contributing to health problems using hair. Hair growing out of the body brings its message of what the environment was like inside. Diagnosing a hair element test result, I can usually tell you what kind of pots and pans you are using in your kitchen. Nickel and aluminum are heavy metals we see often in hair toxicity test results.

Other metals we test for include lead, tin, arsenic and mercury. The Center for Disease Control acknowledges the value of hair mercury levels as a marker for exposure to neurotoxic methylmercury from fish in mothers and children. We see mercury in all ages also from exposure to dental amalgams, even in children who never had silver fillings, but their parents did.

Get The Point! We may not be able to control every-

thing in our environment, but we can control our food choices, our lifestyle and do our part in keeping our body's environment clean and healthy. If you want to know what toxins are being absorbed into your body and how to detox naturally and safely, visit, call or email so we can arrange a hair analysis test and personal health program for you. Meanwhile, if you want to stop eating your pots and pans, we are proud to be offering the healthiest option in cookware made with titanium as a new addition to our clinic services and health products. Call us for information and a free demonstration.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

Dr. Viana's NEW BOOK: Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine – Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, EBook on www.amazon.com, check for Events at: facebook.com/vianahealingcenter. □

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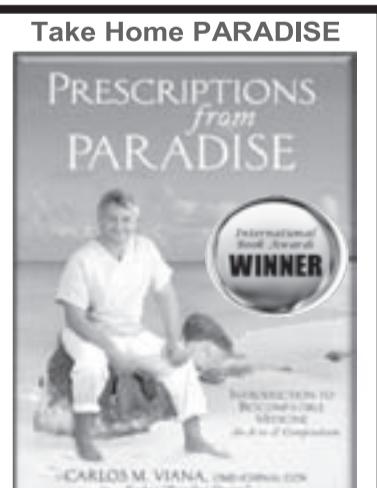
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Silicon Valley sees shortage of EV charge stations

PALO ALTO, California

(AP) — An increasing number of electric-vehicle driving employees at Silicon Valley companies are finding it hard to access car-charging stations at work, creating incidents of "charge rage" among drivers. Installation of electric vehicle charging ports at some companies has not kept pace with soaring demand, creating thorny etiquette issues in the workplace, the San Jose Mercury News reported (<http://bit.ly/1joxwJ6>).

Peter Graf, chief sustainability officer for German software company SAP, says the company's 16 charging stations are now not nearly enough for the 61 employees who drive electric vehicles.

Graf says cars are getting unplugged while charging, creating animosity between employees. A charge can take as little as 30 minutes. "Cars are getting unplugged while they are actively charging, and that's a problem," Graf told the newspaper. "Employees are calling and messaging each other, saying, 'I see you're fully charged, can you please move



Rabih Sabbagh prepares to move his Prius as Satyen Kansara, right, goes to move his car into the Sabbagh's charging station at Infoblox in Santa Clara, Calif. on Monday, Jan. 6, 2014. (Jim Gensheimer/Bay Area News Group)

your car?"

The company is drafting guidelines for EV-driving employees.

ChargePoint, which operates a large EV-charging network, says companies should provide one charging port for every two of their employees' electric vehicles.

Companies everywhere will probably begin facing similar problems.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. expects 800,000

electric vehicles to be on state roads by 2020 — there are only 20,000

now — creating a high demand for charging stations. Currently, there are about 5,000 public and workplace charging stations in California and 20,000 nationwide.

"Having two chargers and 20 electric cars is worse than having no chargers and 20 electric cars. If you are going to do this, you have to be willing to continue

to scale it," said Pat Romano, CEO of ChargePoint.

Adding chargers can be expensive, especially at sites where companies are leasing space and don't want to invest in permanent charging infrastructure.

Some Valley companies have already taken steps toward alleviating charge rage in the workplace.

About 10 percent of Infoblox's 260 employees

have electric vehicles, with only six charging stations.

So, the company set up an EV user distribution list and a shared calendar for booking time at the charging stations.

"You can only book for a two-hour window. But Rule No. 1 is: No one touches anyone else's car without permission," said David Gee, the company's executive vice president of marketing. □

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Delta 4Q profit rises after traffic, fare gains

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Higher fares and growing traffic helped Delta Air Lines Inc. post a bigger-than-expected profit on Tuesday.

Delta's yield — a key measure of what each passenger pays to fly one mile — rose 4 percent for the quarter. Airlines tried about a dozen fare increases last year. While most failed after competitors didn't match them, airlines still boosted yields by an average 2 percent last year, according to the Airlines for America trade group.

Delta President Ed Bastian said demand for air travel is "solid," and Delta expects to see "significant margin expansion" in the current quarter.

Bastian also said the airline industry is showing restraint in how much flying it adds. The view on Wall Street has been that reining in growth will give airlines more power to raise fares. Delta expanded flying just 1 percent last year. It said it expects to grow 2 percent to 3 percent in the upcoming quarter.

Delta said it expects its new joint venture with Virgin Atlantic to be profitable this year. CEO Richard Anderson said bankers in New York are especially interested in the flights, because Delta and Virgin America together have a fuller schedule between New York and London.

Not counting a non-cash adjustment for taxes, Delta earned \$558 million, or

65 cents per share, for the quarter that ended Dec. 31. Revenue rose 5.5 percent to \$9.08 billion. Both figures were better than Wall Street analysts expected, not counting one-time items.

Including a one-time, \$8 billion accounting benefit related to taxes, Delta's net income ballooned to \$8.48 billion, or \$9.89 per share. After years of losses culminating in bankruptcy protection in 2005, Delta has posted four years of profits, including \$2.7 billion in adjusted profits last year, not counting special items. Its past losses will cut its future tax bills, which amounts to an \$8 billion asset being added to its balance sheet in the fourth quarter.

In the year-earlier quarter,

Delta earned \$7 million, or a penny per share, after Superstorm Sandy hurt profits. Delta said its Trainer refinery near Philadelphia lost \$46 million for the quarter because of tighter margins between the cost of crude oil and the market price for refined products like gasoline and diesel fuel. Delta said the same pricing issues helped reduce the price of jet fuel, though, reducing its overall fuel expense. The refinery should produce a "modest profit" this year as it shifts to using more U.S. crude oil, said Paul Jacobson, Delta's chief financial officer.

Shares of Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc. rose 94 cents, or 3 percent, to \$32.01 in afternoon trading. □

Unilever says sales slowed by new markets

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Consumer goods giant Unilever, maker of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, said Tuesday that sales slowed in the fourth quarter due to weakness in emerging markets and are expected to remain muted until later in 2014.

The company said "underlying" sales — that is, stripping out the impact of currency effects and new businesses — rose 4.1 percent. While the figure was better than analysts had expected, it was entirely reliant on demand in emerging markets, which slowed.

Developed markets like the U.S. and Europe are not improving quickly enough to benefit the company.

"The growth that you see in the United States and some people get excited about is not enough to make a difference" to Unilever, Chief Executive Paul Polman said on a conference call with analysts. He repeated the company's goal of maintaining margins while growing faster than the markets it competes in, with brands such as Dove soaps, Vaseline, Axe deodorants, Omo laundry detergent, and many others.

For the full year 2013, sales fell 3 percent to 49.8 billion euros (\$67.5 billion), mostly due to the strong euro, and net profit was up 9 percent to 5.3 billion euros. Unilever PLC managed to improve its operating margins to 15.1 percent from 13.6 percent. It did not release quarterly profit and loss figures.

The company said demand in emerging markets has been dampened by weaker currencies, and in developed economies it has seen little improvement — despite a rise in economic indicators.

The U.S. jobs market has been improving steadily and the European Union emerged from recession last year. □

Mixed earnings hold back US stocks

BERNARD CONDON
STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The Standard & Poor's 500 index

likely mean slightly lower profits than forecast. Delta Air Lines gained after reporting a better-than-expected profit in the fourth quarter

earnings reports and investors appear to be assessing the results more critically than they did a year ago. "Earnings are coming in

cent, to 1,843.80. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 44.12 points, or 0.3 percent, to 16,414.44. The Nasdaq composite edged up 28.18 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,225.76. J&J, one of the 30 members of the Dow, slipped \$1.03, or 1.1 percent, to \$94.03, helping pull the index lower. Another Dow component, Verizon Communications, fell after reporting its own earnings. Dow Chemical rose \$2.86, or 6.6 percent, to \$45.93 after hedge fund Third Point LLC said Tuesday that it has acquired a significant stake in the company and wants it to spin off its petrochemicals division.

Alcoa surged 77 cents, or 6.8 percent, to \$12.13 after analysts at JPMorgan raised their price target for the stock, predicting Alcoa will benefit from tightening aluminum markets.

After surging almost 30 percent last year, stocks are starting the year in a more subdued fashion. The S&P 500 is down 0.3 percent for the year. In bond trading, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.83 percent from 2.82 percent on Friday. U.S. markets were closed Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. □



Trader Peter Tuchman works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's 500 index logged a small gain Tuesday on a mixed day for the stock market.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

logged a small gain Tuesday on a mixed day for the stock market.

Health-care giant Johnson & Johnson slipped after it warned that pressure to keep prices low would like-

as fares and traffic rose. Company earnings were the main focus for investors Tuesday as there were no major economic releases. So far, the stock market has failed to get a big lift from

and, candidly, we're getting a mixture picture for the fourth quarter so far," said Jim Russell, an investment director at U.S. Bank. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 5.10 points, or 0.3 per-

Johnson & Johnson's 4Q profit rises solid 19 percent

LINDA A. JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

Surging sales of Johnson & Johnson's prescription medicines and the rebound of its recall-plagued consumer health business lifted fourth-quarter profit 19 percent.

The health care giant also enjoyed a \$707 million tax benefit from writing off money-losing subsidiary

Scios.

However, shares fell on J&J's less-stellar 2014 profit forecast due to factors including continued pressures for lower prices. The maker of baby shampoo and biological drugs said Tuesday that fourth-quarter net income was \$3.52 billion, or \$1.23 per share, up from \$2.57 billion, or 91 cents per share,

a year earlier.

Excluding one-time items, income was \$1.24 per share.

Analysts expected 4 cents less.

Revenue totaled \$18.36 billion, up 4.5 percent. Analysts expected \$17.94 billion, according to FactSet. "Each of Johnson & Johnson's three main business units reported better sales

than investors were expecting ... despite a negative impact due to currency (rates) of over 3 percent," noted Edward Jones analyst Judson Clark.

CEO Alex Gorsky noted J&J got three new medicines approved last year — Invokana for Type 2 diabetes, Olysio for hepatitis C and Imbruvica for lymphoma. It expects to apply for ap-

roval of 10 more by 2017. Prescription drug sales rose 12 percent to \$7.3 billion, led by higher sales of immune disorder drugs, plus Zytiga for prostate cancer and HIV drug Prezista. □

Verizon posts \$5.07 billion profit for fourth quarter

BREE FOWLER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Verizon posted fourth-quarter net

in both the number connected devices and its wireless subscriber population. Its results reported

million net retail wireless connections during the quarter, excluding acquisitions and adjustments. Of

same time a year ago. The 2013 total included 96.8 million connections with monthly contracts.

Francis Shammo, Verizon's executive vice president and CFO, said on a conference call with investors that the company got a big boost from new contracts for tablet service,

which totaled 790,000 and marked the largest quarterly total since tablets were first introduced in 2010.

Meanwhile, Verizon's overall population of retail wireless subscribers increased 4.5 percent to 35.1 million, with each customer having an average of 2.8 connected devices.

The company's wireline division, which provides landlines along with the company's FIOS internet and TV services, also saw growth. Consumer revenues at that division rose 6 percent to \$3.8 billion, as FIOS-related consumer revenue jumped 15 percent to nearly \$2.8 billion. □



A pedestrian uses her cell phone as she passes a Verizon Wireless store on Broadway in Lower Manhattan, New York. Verizon Communications Inc. reported positive quarterly financial results on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014

income of \$5.07 billion, boosted by continued growth in the number of phones and tablets connected to its network.

The largest U.S. cellphone carrier reported increases

Tuesday beat Wall Street predictions.

New York-based Verizon said overall service revenue rose 8 percent to \$17.7 billion.

The company added 1.7

that total, 1.6 million were connections that involved monthly service contracts. As of Dec. 31, Verizon had a total of 102.8 million retail connections, marking a 5 percent increase over the

Halliburton 4Q profit up on international strength

NEW YORK (AP) — Halliburton's fourth-quarter net income rose 19 percent, led by growth in its international operations.

The oilfield-services company's results beat Wall Street expectations and its shares rose almost 2 percent in premarket trading Tuesday.

The Houston-based company earned \$793 million, or 93 cents per share, for the three months ended Dec. 31. That compares

with \$669 million, or 72 cents per share, a year earlier. Income from continuing operations was 90 cents per share. When removing restructuring charges, it was 93 cents per share. Analysts polled by FactSet expected earnings of 89 cents per share.

Revenue increased 5 percent to \$7.64 billion from \$7.29 billion, with strength in its Middle East/Asia and Europe/Africa/Commonwealth of Independent

States regions. The latter region includes countries such as Russia and the Ukraine. Wall Street expected revenue of \$7.55 billion. North American revenue climbed 2 percent from a year ago, but dipped 1 percent when compared with the third quarter. Halliburton said that the sequential performance was hurt by seasonal activity disruptions tied to the weather and holidays.

Halliburton Co. is a big pro-

vider of services used in hydraulic fracturing or "fracking," a method of unlocking oil and gas trapped in underground rock formations. Competition has increased for these pressure-pumping services, which has pushed prices down and hurt Halliburton's margins.

A long slump in U.S. natural gas prices has added to the Houston company's challenges by curtailing new drilling and stifling demand for services. □

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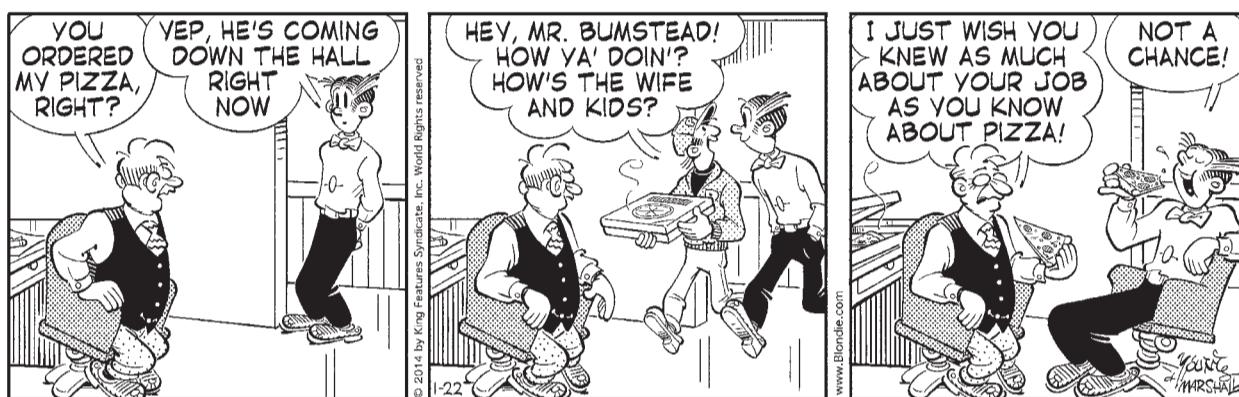
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5	8	3	9	2	7	4		
6							2	
	4	1	6	5	8			
3							9	
8						9		3
4					8	6		1
5					8			7
1						8		
	7	9	1	4	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	3	4	1	7	8	6	5	2
1	2	5	6	9	4	8	7	3
6	8	7	5	2	3	4	9	1
5	9	8	7	6	1	3	2	4
2	7	6	4	3	9	5	1	8
3	4	1	8	5	2	9	6	7
7	5	3	2	4	6	1	8	9
8	6	9	3	1	7	2	4	5
4	1	2	9	8	5	7	3	6

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		14	15						16		
17			18						19		
20		21							22		
23									24	25	
26	27	28							29	30	
34				35							36
37			38						39		
40		41							42		
43		44							45		
46									47		
48	49	50			51	52	53			54	55
56			57						58		59
60			61						62		
63			64						65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/22/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

N	E	S	T	S	C	R	E	W	J	E	S
O	V	R		C	H	O	R	E	O	A	H
D	E	N	Y	H	E	A	R	T	T	H	R
S	R	S	T	O	E	D			H	A	L
A	B	H	O	R					Y	E	N
A	C	T	U	A	L				C	A	R
S	A	I	N	T	A	L	O	N	E	V	A
K	N	O	T	S	N	E	A	K	G	A	L
S	O	N	S	T	E	E	M	A	L	T	A
E	S	C	H	E	W				C	A	S
E	S	C	H	E	W				A	S	U
M	O	D	G	E	E				M	O	C

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1/22/14

- ACROSS
- 1 Highest card
 - 4 Remembered Texas mission
 - 9 Q-tip, for one
 - 13 Keep for later
 - 15 Unclothed
 - 16 Old Roman garment
 - 17 Author Haley
 - 18 In a cold and unfriendly way
 - 19 Chess piece
 - 20 Small pieces
 - 22 Border
 - 23 "Oh, for crying out __!"
 - 24 Jacuzzi
 - 26 Dishes
 - 29 Grotesque
 - 34 Animal pelts
 - 35 Very religious
 - 36 Body of water
 - 37 Enthusiastic
 - 38 "Valley of the __"
 - 39 Playwright Moss
 - 40 "Now you __ it, now you don't!"
 - 41 Wild fight
 - 42 Debonair
 - 43 Teaches
 - 45 Strong-armed
 - 46 nutshell; briefly
 - 47 Swimming spot
 - 48 Cut of pork
 - 51 Singer Aguilera
 - 56 A single time
 - 57 Old stomping ground
 - 58 Moves the head to assent
 - 60 Flower stalk
 - 61 Chosen few
 - 62 Stare
 - 63 pop; soft drink
 - 64 One who gives to charity
 - 65 Rooster's mate
 - 66 out; get rid of gradually
 - 67 Existed
 - 68 French farewell
 - 69 Uses an emery board
 - 70 Acting part
 - 71 Sir __ Newton
 - 72 Do a waiter's job
 - 73 GEESE
 - 74 beans
 - 75 Warsaw native
 - 76 Not connected
 - 77 Throwing with force
 - 78 Lady's mate
 - 79 Hearth residue
 - 80 Theater
 - 81 Actress Jodie
 - 82 Feinstein: abbr.
 - 83 tea
 - 84 Ring of light
 - 85 Spoil
 - 86 Ark builder
 - 87 Shaping tool
 - 88 Rubio or Feinstein: abbr.

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NOAA: World in 2013 was 4th hottest on record

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Last year tied for the fourth hottest year on record around the globe. The average world temperature was 58.12 degrees (14.52 Celsius) tying with 2003 for the fourth warmest since 1880, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday.

At the same time, NASA, which calculates records in a different manner, ranked last year as the seventh warmest on record, with an average temperature of 58.3 degrees (14.6 Celsius). The difference is related to how the two agencies calculate temperatures in the Arctic and other remote places and is based on differences that are in the hundredths of a degree, scientists said.

Both agencies said nine of the 10th warmest years on record have happened in the 21st century. The hottest year was 2010, according to NOAA.

The reports were released as a big snowstorm was hitting the U.S. East Coast.

"There are times such as today when we can have snow even in a globally warmed world," said Gavin Schmidt, deputy director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies in New York. "But the long



In this Dec. 25, 2013 file photo, children line up to receive a Christmas gift from volunteers near a giant lantern with the colors of the Philippine flag, in Tacloban, Philippines, a city devastated by the Nov. 8 typhoon Haiyan.

Associated Press

term trends are not going to disappear ... Quite frankly people have a very short memory when it comes to climate and weather."

Those longer trends show the world has seen "fairly dramatic warming" since the 1960s with "a smaller rate of warming over the last decade or so," said Thomas Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center. In the past 50 years, the world annual

temperature has increased by nearly 1.4 degrees (0.8 degrees Celsius), according to NOAA data.

Unlike 2012, much of the worst heat and biggest climate disasters last year were outside the U.S. Parts of central Asia, central Africa and Australia were record warm. Only a few places, including the central U.S., were cooler than normal last year.

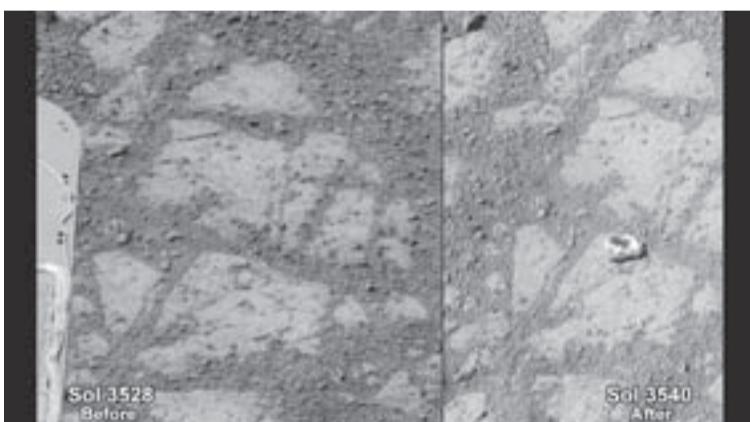
Temperatures that were

only the 37th warmest for the nation last year. That followed the warmest year on record for the U.S.

Last year, the world had 41 billion-dollar weather disasters, the second highest number behind only 2010, according to insurance firm Aon Benfield, which tracks global disasters. Since 2000, the world has averaged 28 such billion dollar disasters, which are adjusted for inflation.

Nearly half of last year's biggest weather disasters were in Asia and the Pacific region, including Typhoon Haiyan, which killed at least 6,100 people and caused \$13 billion in damage to the Philippines and Vietnam. Other costly weather disasters included \$22 billion from central European flooding in June, \$10 billion in damage from Typhoon Fitow in China and Japan, and a \$10 billion drought in much of China, according to the insurance firm. Usually the weather event called El Nino, a warming of the central Pacific, is responsible for boosting already warm years into the world's hottest years. But in 2013, there was no El Nino.

The fact that a year with no El Nino "was so hot tells me that the climate really is shifting," said Andrew Dessler, a Texas A&M University climate scientist, who was not part of either the NOAA or NASA teams. For many people, global warming first hit the headlines in 1988 when NASA climate scientist James Hansen testified before Congress on a hot summer day. That year ended up the warmest on record at the time. But on Tuesday, it was knocked out of the 20 top hottest years by 2013. □



"Jelly doughnut" rock on Mars suddenly appears

This composite image provided by NASA shows before and-after images taken by the Opportunity rover. At left is an image of a patch of ground taken on Dec. 26, 2013. At right is an image taken on Jan. 8, 2014 showing a rock shaped like a jelly doughnut that had not been there before.

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) -- NASA scientists are intrigued by a Martian rock resembling a jelly doughnut that seemed to appear out of nowhere.

The Opportunity rover earlier this month took an image of the rock, which was white around the outside and dark red in the middle. It was not present in earlier images of the same spot. Chief scientist Steve Squyres has a likely expla-

nation. He said in a presentation last week that one of Opportunity's wheels probably kicked up the rock, which then slid into its field of view.

Early testing of the "jelly" part of the rock revealed characteristics unlike any other rock the rover has discovered during its decade on Mars. The rock is high in sulfur and magnesium, and scientists are still trying to figure out why. □

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Celebs flock to honor Ringo Starr before Grammys

BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ringo Starr got an early start to Grammy week, with famous friends honoring him for his life and work.

The former Beatle received the Lifetime of Peace and Love award from the David Lynch Foundation on Monday night during a tribute concert at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles.

In turn, Starr led the crowd in singing happy birthday to Lynch, the director known for "Blue Velvet" and "Mulholland Drive," who was celebrating his 68th birthday.

Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono expressed their love for Starr via videos, while George Harrison's widow, Olivia, was in the crowd. Starr and McCartney will perform separately at Sunday's Grammy Awards.

"It's a weird place to be this evening," Starr said onstage. "All this praise is overwhelming really. It's really great to look out and see all these people I recognize and three of them are meditating."

Lynch's foundation helps

provide scholarships to teach transcendental meditation — a practice the Beatles dabbled in — to at-risk youth, veterans and domestic violence victims.

"Everybody loves Ringo," Lynch said. "Not just because he's a Beatle, not just because he's one of the tastiest drummers ever, but because he radiates that peace and love."

Don Was served as musical director for the all-star house band that included Peter Frampton, drummer Kenny Aronoff, former Toto guitarist Steve Lukather and keyboardist Benmont Tench of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

"It's a great little band," Starr said. "I know them all personally."

Jesse Elliott and Lindsay Giles of Ark Life kicked off the show with a duet of "Can't Do It Wrong." The Head and the Heart paid homage to the Beatles on "Octopus's Garden" before Brendan Benson sang "Don't Go Where the Road Don't Go." Starr watched from the audience, bobbing his head to the beat.



Director David Lynch, left, presents musician Ringo Starr with the "Lifetime of Peace & Love Award" on stage during the David Lynch Foundation Honors Ringo Star "A Lifetime of Peace & Love" event held at the El Rey Theatre on Monday, Jan. 20, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Bettye LaVette offered up a soulful take on "It Don't Come Easy" after noting her 50th anniversary in the music business. "This is the baddest band I've had in the entire 50 years," she said.

Ben Folds tore through "Oh My My," resembling a mad scientist as he pounded the electric keyboard. "It's very rare I play an ironing board for you, and it's only for Ringo and David," Folds joked.

Ben Harper slowed things down on "Walk With You," before turning the stage over to Joe Walsh, who took a break from the Eagles' run of shows reopening the Forum to jam for his brother-in-law. Walsh's wife, Marjorie, is the sister of Starr's wife, Barbara Bach. "I'm gonna cheat," Walsh cracked, with the lyrics to "Back Off Boogaloo" propped on a stand in front of him.

By then, Starr had left his seat to head backstage, dancing in the wings as Walsh showed off his guitar licks. "I've written these songs, but I've never heard them like that," Starr said as he took the stage for the finale.

He launched into his hit "Photograph," then got behind the drums for "Boys." "I have to play something from the drums so you can see I can still hold the sticks," he joked. Starr closed the show by taking the lead on "With a Little Help from My Friends," joined onstage by Jim Carrey, Sheila E. and Edgar Winter as the crowd got on its feet for the sing-along. □

Sting and Paul Simon rehearsing for upcoming tour

BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

PASADENA, California (AP) — Sting and Paul Simon are rehearsing for their upcoming tour, a couple of long-time friends and neighbors preparing to take turns singing some of each other's biggest hits.

It was Simon's idea for the tour, hatched when he came downstairs in their New York apartment building to ask if Sting would be interested. Of course, Sting told him, having first heard Simon & Garfunkel when he was a 15-year-old in England.

"He's the master," Sting said Monday, speaking by satellite from New York. "If I ever wanted to emulate a literary and literate songwriter, then Paul Simon would be the person

I would go to."

They have started the process of selecting the set list for the tour, which opens Feb. 8 in Houston. Sting said Simon has asked him to sing "Bridge Over Troubled Water," and Sting asked if they could include "America."

"Paul had a long partnership with Art Garfunkel for many, many years, and it's not my job to impersonate Art," Sting said. "He has one of the most iconic, beautiful voices in the history of rock 'n' roll. But my job is to interpret and honor the notes and the lyrics that have been written, and I will be me. But I'm delighted to sing songs from that canon."

Simon is eager to sing Sting's songs "Fields of Gold" and "Fragile."

"I think the gentler side of



This June 13, 2013 file photo, Sting performs at the Songwriters Hall of Fame 44th annual induction and awards gala in New York.

Associated Press

my repertoire interests him," Sting told the Television Critics Association while promoting his PBS special, "Sting: The Last Ship," airing Feb. 21 on "Great Performances."

The two men, separated

by a 10-year age difference, first sang together at a charity benefit in New York last year. Sting said he was surprised by how well his voice blended with that of the 72-year-old Simon. "He will pick up something

of my energy, and I'll pick up some of his," he said. "Again, it's a learning experience."

At times, they'll blend their respective bands, the specifics of which are still being worked out.



This Sept. 11, 2013 file photo, Actor Kurt Russell arrives at the premiere of "The Art of the Steal" on day 7 of the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. Associated Press

Kurt Russell remembers Paul Walker at Sundance

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) —

Calling his late castmate Paul Walker "a terrific guy," Kurt Russell says he's not sure what will happen with his role in the latest "Fast & Furious" movie.

Russell joined the seventh film in the franchise and plays a father figure to Vin Diesel's character Dominic Toretto. The 62-year-old actor said he had one day left of filming when Walker died in a car crash outside Los Angeles last November. "They're having to rewrite, they're having to do whatever they're having to do to deal with the situation. Listen, it's catastrophic. It's the worst thing that could happen to a movie,

but it's not as bad as what happened to Paul," Russell said in an interview at the Sundance Film Festival, where he's promoting a documentary about his father's minor-league baseball team, "The Battered Bastards of Baseball." "So everything is in perspective. He was a terrific guy. And life is full of curveballs." The latest film in the fast-car franchise, directed by James Wan, is now set for release in April 2015. Russell expects to return to set sometime this year. Russell said of his character, whom he didn't name: "Whether or not this guy dies off in the movie, we don't know, and that may have changed now significantly, too." □

Off-Broadway comedy funded by travel industry



This image released by Blake Zidell & Associates shows actors Thom Sesma, left, and Michele Ragusa portraying a pair of harried travel agents in "Craving for Travel." The unusual production was funded by the travel industry but was written, acted and directed by folks with legitimate theater-world credentials. Associated Press

BETH J. HARPAZ

AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK (AP) —

A new off-Broadway comedy about a pair of travel agents and their wacky clientele's demands has an unusual source of funding. It's underwritten by the very industry it portrays. "Craving for Travel" is the brainchild of Jim Strong, who owns a \$40 million-a-year luxury travel company in Dallas and wrote two self-published books.

Strong's co-sponsors for the show include Viking and Holland America cruise lines, Travel + Leisure magazine and the Four Seasons hotel chain.

The show is open to the public but a number of performances have been bought out by travel-related businesses. A recent preview audience was filled with travel agents and hotel employees who laughed in recognition at the characters' familiar predicaments — like a last-minute request for rooms at a top resort over Christmas, and a stranded traveler's plea for help after booking his own disastrous trip to China online.

Despite the show's travel industry DNA, its writing, direction and acting is all by folks with bona fide theater credentials. Director and co-writer Andy Sandberg's resume includes producing Nora and Delia Ephron's "Love, Loss and What I Wore" and the Tony Award-winning 2009 revival of "Hair." Actors Michele Ragusa and Thom Sesma have Broadway and off-Broadway credits in everything from "Urinetown" to "The Lion King."

Sandberg said he was "a little suspicious" when

Strong first approached him, until he realized Strong "wasn't looking to do an infomercial. He wanted to do a legitimate theater piece and turn it over to legitimate theater people while doing something that boosted the profile of his industry and fighting the impression out there that travel agents are a dying breed with the rise of mass market online travel."

Sandberg and his co-writer Greg Edwards interviewed

30 to 40 people in the travel industry, gathering nuggets for stories in the play that include an elderly couple planning a last

grand trip and someone with a "delusional request"

to take the USS Intrepid —

a World War II aircraft carrier now used as a museum

— for a private joyride.

The show's format is a little like an extended "Saturday Night Live" skit. Ragusa and Sesma energetically portray some 30 characters, starting with a pair of rival (and formerly married) travel agents, sometimes on the phone with each other, sometimes on the phone with needy customers, but always managing to meet impossible demands — including that joyride on the Intrepid. □

'In the Blood' is intriguing thriller

JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

"In the Blood" (Touchstone), by Lisa Unger

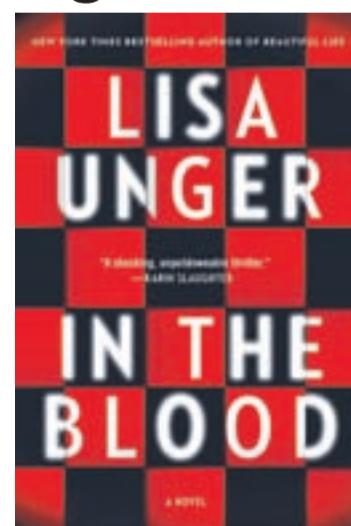
Lisa Unger's novels all explore the theme of family and how it shapes people's lives. Her latest, "In the Blood," examines the life of Lana Granger, a person with many secrets.

Granger appears to be running away from a traumatic event in her past. She's found college life to be rewarding, and is about to graduate. She needs extra money, and learns of an opportunity to baby-sit a young boy named Luke (who has secrets of his own). The two of them hit it off, and Granger looks forward to spending her afternoons with him.

When her best friend, Beck, disappears, the police suspect Granger since she was the last one to see him alive. As the authorities dig deeper, they discover Granger lied about her alibi, and that she has connections to a dead body found a year earlier.

What the police don't understand is that Granger cannot tell the truth about what happened on either of those occasions. The lies have been flowing so constantly they have become truth. And then Luke begins to show signs of hostility.

Nothing is what it seems as Unger pulls off some beau-



tiful surprises in this intriguing thriller. Once the final page of "In the Blood" is turned, readers will flip through the novel to see if they can uncover how Unger masterfully told the tale. □

The Inequality Problem



DAVID BROOKS

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Suddenly the whole world is talking about income inequality. But, as this debate goes on, it is beginning to look as though the thing is being misconceived. The income inequality debate is confusing matters more than clarifying them, and it is leading us off in unhelpful directions.

In the first place, to frame the issue as income inequality is to lump together different issues that are not especially related. What we call "inequality" is caused by two different constellations of problems.

At the top end, there is the growing wealth of the top 5 percent of workers. This is linked to things like perverse compensation schemes on Wall Street, assortative mating (highly educated people are more likely to marry each other and pass down their advantages to their children) and the superstar effect (in an Internet economy, a few superstars in each industry can reap global gains while the average performers cannot).

At the bottom end, there is a growing class of people stuck on the margins, generation after generation. This is caused by high dropout rates, the disappearance of low-skill jobs, breakdown in family structures and so on.

If you have a primitive zero-sum mentality then you assume growing affluence for the rich must somehow be causing the immobility of the poor, but, in reality, the two sets of problems are different, and it does no good to lump them together and call them "inequality."

Second, it leads to ineffective policy responses. If you think the problem is "income inequality," then the natural response is to increase incomes at the bottom, by raising the minimum wage.

But raising the minimum wage may not be an effective way to help those least well-off. Joseph J. Sabia of San Diego State University and Richard V. Burkhauser of Cornell looked at the effects of increases in the minimum wage between 2003 and 2007. Consistent with some other studies, they find no evidence that such raises had any effect on the poverty rates.

That's because raises in the minimum wage are not targeted at the right people. Only 11 percent of the workers affected by such an increase come from poor households. Nearly two-thirds of such workers are the second

or third earners living in households at twice the poverty line or above.

The primary problem for the poor is not that they are getting paid too little for the hours they work. It is that they are not working full time or at all. Raising the minimum wage is popular politics; it is not effective policy.

Third, the income inequality frame contributes to our tendency to simplify complex cultural, social, behavioral and economic problems into strictly economic problems.

There is a very strong correlation between single motherhood and low social mobility. There is a very strong correlation between high school dropout rates and low mobility. There is a strong correlation between the fraying of social fabric and low economic mobility. There is a strong correlation between de-industrialization and low social mobility. It is also true that many men, especially young men, are engaging in behaviors that damage their long-term earning prospects; much more than comparable women.

Low income is the outcome of these interrelated problems, but it is not the problem. To say it is the problem is to confuse cause and effect. To say it is the problem is to give yourself a pass from exploring the complex and morally fraught social and cultural roots of the problem. It is to give yourself permission to ignore the parts that are uncomfortable to talk about but that are really the inescapable core of the thing.

Fourth, the income inequality frame needlessly polarizes the debate. There is a growing consensus that government should be doing more to help increase social mobility for the less affluent. Even conservative Republicans are signing on to this. The income inequality language introduces a class conflict element to this discussion.

Democrats often see low wages as both a human capital problem and a problem caused by unequal economic power. Republicans are more likely to see them just as a human capital problem. If we're going to pass bipartisan legislation, we're going to have to start with the human capital piece, where there is some agreement, not the class conflict piece, where there is none.

Some on the left have always tried to introduce a more class-conscious style of politics. These efforts never pan out. America has always done better, liberals have always done better, when we are all focused on opportunity and mobility, not inequality, on individual and family aspiration, not class-consciousness.

If we're going to mobilize a policy revolution, we should focus on the real concrete issues: bad schools, no jobs for young men, broken families, neighborhoods without mediating institutions. We should not be focusing on a secondary issue and a statistical byproduct. □



The Real Scandal In France



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2014 New York Times

I haven't paid much attention to François Hollande, the president of France, since it became clear that he wasn't going to break with Europe's destructive, austerity-minded policy orthodoxy. But now he has done something truly scandalous.

I am not, of course, talking about his alleged affair with an actress, which, even if true, is neither surprising (hey, it's France) nor disturbing.

No, what's shocking is his embrace of discredited right-wing economic doctrines. It's a reminder that Europe's ongoing economic woes can't be attributed solely to the bad ideas of the right.

Yes, callous, wrongheaded conservatives have been driving policy, but they have been abetted and enabled by spineless, muddleheaded politicians on the moderate left.

Right now, Europe seems to be emerging from its double-dip recession and growing a bit. But this slight uptick follows years of disastrous performance. How disastrous? Consider:

By 1936, seven years into the Great Depression, much of Europe was growing rapidly, with real GDP per capita steadily reaching new highs. By contrast, European real GDP per capita today is still well below its 2007 peak - and rising slowly at best.

Doing worse than you did in the Great Depression is, one might

say, a remarkable achievement. How did the Europeans pull it off? Well, in the 1930s most European countries eventually abandoned economic orthodoxy: They went off the gold standard; they stopped trying to balance their budgets; and some of them began large military buildups that had the side effect of providing economic stimulus. The result was a strong recovery from 1933 onward.

Modern Europe is a much better place, morally, politically, and in human terms. A shared commitment to democracy has brought durable peace; social safety nets have limited the suffering from high unemployment; coordinated action has contained the threat of financial collapse. Unfortunately, the Continent's success in avoiding disaster has had the side effect of letting governments cling to orthodox policies. Nobody has left the euro, even though it's a monetary straitjacket. With no need to boost military spending, nobody has broken with fiscal austerity. Everyone is doing the safe, supposedly responsible thing - and the slump persists.

In this depressed and depressing landscape, France isn't an especially bad performer. Obviously it has lagged behind Germany, which has been buoyed by its formidable export sector. But French performance has been better than that of most other European nations.

And I'm not just talking about the debt-crisis countries. French growth has outpaced that of such pillars of orthodoxy as Finland and the Netherlands.

It's true that the latest data show France failing to share in Europe's general uptick. Most observers, including the International Monetary Fund, attribute this recent weakness largely to austerity policies.

But now Hollande has spoken up about his plans to change France's course - and it's hard not to feel a sense of despair.

For Hollande, in announcing his intention to reduce taxes on businesses while cutting (unspecified) spending to offset the cost, declared, "It is upon supply that we need to act," and he further declared that "supply actually creates demand."

Oh, boy. That echoes, almost verbatim, the long-debunked fallacy known as Say's Law - the claim that overall shortfalls in demand can't happen, because people have to spend their income on something.

This just isn't true, and it's very much not true as a practical matter at the beginning of 2014.

All the evidence says that France is awash in productive resources, both labor and capital, that are sitting idle because demand is inadequate. For proof, one need only look at inflation, which is sliding fast. Indeed, both France and Europe as a whole are getting dangerously close to Japan-style deflation.

So what's the significance of the fact that, at this of all times, Hollande has adopted this discredited doctrine?

As I said, it's a sign of the haplessness of the European center-left. For four years, Europe has been in the grip of austerity fever, with mostly disastrous results; it's telling that the current slight upturn is being hailed as if it were a policy triumph.

Given the hardship these policies have inflicted, you might have expected left-of-center politicians to argue strenuously for a change in course. Yet everywhere in Europe, the center-left has at best (for example, in Britain) offered weak, halfhearted criticism, and often simply cringed in submission.

When Hollande became leader of the second-ranked euro economy, some of us hoped that he might take a stand. Instead, he fell into the usual cringe - a cringe that has now turned into intellectual collapse.

And Europe's second depression goes on and on. □

THE RIGHT STUFF



A tangy cream cheese filling lightened with a little mascarpone in oatmeal sandwich cookies in New York. Last-minute details like rolling them in cinnamon sugar are a small price to pay for delectable cookies.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

Creating Irresistible Oatmeal Sandwich Cookies

MELISSA CLARK
© 2014 New York Times

Forget all the bad, soggy oatmeal cookies you've ever had.

Picture instead a moist-centered, butterscotch-imbedded, crisp-edged cookie flecked with nubby oats. Add to this the fragrant nuttiness of toasted coconut. Then subtract any chewy raisins that may have accidentally wandered into the picture, and substitute sweet, soft dates that are guaranteed not to stick in your teeth.

This was what I was going for the last time I whipped up oatmeal cookies. The result was as fine a batch as ever was wrought on my well-seasoned baking pans.

As good as they were, though, I wanted them to be utterly irresistible, something to woo the kinds of cookie eaters who never seem to look beyond chocolate chips.

Then I thought of my childhood neighbor's kitchen, overflowing with treats. While our house was a wasteland of whole grain rice cakes and other good-

for-you snacks, our neighbor's was perpetually stocked with chocolate crumb doughnut holes and at least three flavors of ice cream.

It was there that I became acquainted with oatmeal sandwich cookies as fat and pillow-y as cupcakes, but with the icing stuffed into the center.

That was what my cookies needed to rise above all others: a tangy cream cheese filling lightened with a little mascarpone.

So I tried it, adding one more lily-gilding touch. Before baking the lumps of cookie dough, I rolled them in cinnamon sugar. The sugar was to make the cookies sparkle like jewels. Adding cinnamon brought out the spice notes already in the recipe, which echoed as the crumbs disappeared on the tongue.

The only downside to these cookies is that the moisture in the mascarpone-cream cheese filling makes them lose their crisp edges as they sit. So while all the components can be made in advance, the sandwiching itself needs to take place

within a couple of hours of serving. But no need to chill the filling if you're using it the same day. It spreads best when left at room temperature.

These last-minute details are a small price to pay for delectable cookies. Make the recipe once, and it will banish those bad oatmeal cookie memories, leaving a very sweet taste in their place.

OATMEAL SANDWICH COOKIES

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes
Yield: About 36 cookies, for 18 sandwiches

For the cookies:

80 grams shredded sweetened coconut flakes (3/4 cup)
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
330 grams packed dark brown sugar (1 3/4 cups)
2 tablespoons honey
2 large eggs, at room temperature
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
190 grams all-purpose flour (1 1/2 cups)
7 grams fine sea salt (1 teaspoon)
3 grams baking powder (1/2 teaspoon)

teaspoon)
8 grams ground cinnamon (4 teaspoons)
260 grams rolled oats (3 cups)
100 grams dates, pitted and chopped (1/2 cup)
65 grams granulated sugar (5 tablespoons)

For the filling:

6 ounces cream cheese, softened
6 tablespoons mascarpone
25 grams confectioner's sugar (3 tablespoons)
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spread coconut flakes on a rimmed baking sheet. Toast, stirring occasionally, until lightly colored and fragrant, 7 to 10 minutes. Cool. Raise oven temperature to 375 degrees.
2. In the bowl of a mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the butter until light. Beat in brown sugar and honey, then beat until very fluffy, about 5 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat in vanilla.

3. In a separate large bowl, whisk together flour, salt, baking powder and 1 teaspoon (2 grams) cinnamon. With mixer set on low, beat

flour mixture into butter mixture until combined. Beat in oats, dates and coconut.

4. Line three baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, combine granulated sugar and 3 teaspoons (6 grams) cinnamon. Roll heaping tablespoons of dough into balls, then roll balls in cinnamon sugar; transfer to baking sheet, leaving 1 1/2 inches of space between balls. Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes. Let cool in the pan for 2 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

5. Make the filling: Using the mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in mascarpone, confectioner's sugar and vanilla. Scrape down sides of bowl. Sandwich about 1 tablespoon filling between two cookies; repeat with remaining cookies.

Note: Measurements for dry ingredients are given by weight for greater accuracy. The equivalent measurements by volume are approximate. □